



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1991

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

TAC DISCUSSED CMB'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN	1
EC IMPOSES PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON HK TV RECEIVERS	2
THREE DB ELECTIONS CANDIDATES WITHDRAW NOMINATIONS	3
AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS	4

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1991

- 1 -

TAC DISCUSSED CMB'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS TODAY (TUESDAY) BRIEFED ON THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S 1991-1995 FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME (FPP), THE VIEWS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS ON THE 1991-92 ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S ASSESSMENT OF THE FPP.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT IN THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP), THE CMB PROPOSED EIGHT NEW ROUTES, 22 ITEMS OF FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENT, CONVERSION TO AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES ON 12 ROUTES, A NUMBER OF FREQUENCY REDUCTIONS AND ROUTING CHANGES, AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ONE ROUTE.

APART FROM IMPROVEMENTS TO CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES, THE NEW ROUTES AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WERE PROPOSED MAINLY TO MEET ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN DEMAND FROM NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT SHAU KEI WAN EAST, KELLET BAY AND AP LEI CHAU.

THE PROPOSED WIDER USE OF AIR-CONDITIONED BUSES WAS DESIGNED TO MEET DEMAND FOR HIGHER QUALITY SERVICE.

MEMBERS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE MORE AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES FOR THE CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES.

THE COMMITTEE LEARNED THAT THE SOUTHERN, EASTERN AND CENTRAL/WESTERN DISTRICT BOARDS WERE PARTICULARLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE SERVICES FOR THEIR DISTRICTS.

SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS STRESSED THAT THE FARES FOR THE PROPOSED AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES SHOULD NOT BE SET TOO HIGH AND THAT PARALLEL NO-AIR-CONDITIONED BUS SERVICES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, GIVING PASSENGERS CHOICE.

THE BOARDS HAD ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS ON ROUTE DEVELOPMENT.

TAKING THE BOARD MEMBERS' VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION, THE CMB HAD ACCEPTED THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS TO MODIFY A NUMBER OF SERVICE PROPOSALS TO GIVE A MORE EVEN SPREAD OF AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES BETWEEN DISTRICTS, AS WELL AS A MORE BALANCED PROGRAMME FOR MEETING CHANGES IN POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DEMAND.

THE TAC WAS ASSURED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE NOTE ON DISTRICT BOARDS' VIEWS WHEN GUIDING THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CMB'S AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES.

DUE REGARD WOULD BE GIVEN TO PASSENGER PREFERENCE AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE CHOICE FOR COMMUTERS WHO MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE HIGHER FARES CHARGED FOR AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES.

ASSUMING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRENT FPP, THE PROPORTION OF AIR-CONDITIONED VEHICLES IN CMB'S FLEET WOULD RISE GRADUALLY FROM 1.5 PER CENT IN 1990 TO ABOUT 25 PER CENT IN 1995.

/THE APPROPRIATENESS

THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE CURRENT FARE SCALE FOR AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES IS BEING REVIEWED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

ON THE CMB'S PROPOSED FLEET REQUIREMENT, THE TAC NOTED THAT THERE WAS A DAILY OPERATIONAL NEED FOR 790 BUSES AT DECEMBER 1991, RISING TO 829 AT DECEMBER 1995.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, THE CMB ENVISAGED THE PURCHASE OF 244 BUSES AND THE SCRAPPING OF 228 BUSES BETWEEN 1991 AND 1995.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE CMB PLANNED TO INVEST ABOUT \$800 MILLION ON NEW BUSES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THE TAC WAS INFORMED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE CASE FOR FURTHER INVESTMENT IN NEW BUSES, HAVING REGARD TO CHANGES IN THE CMB'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE POSITION.

ON DEPOT DEVELOPMENT, THE CMB DID NOT PLAN TO ACQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL PERMANENT DEPOT AS ITS FLEET SIZE WAS EXPECTED TO REMAIN STABLE WITHIN THE FPP PERIOD.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SUPPORTED THE CMB'S PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN, UNDER SHORT-TERM TENANCY, A PARKING SITE AT SIU SAI WAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING DOWN THE NUMBER OF BUSES PARKED ON-STREET OR AT BUS TERMINI.

THE COMMITTEE WAS BRIEFED ON THE INFLATION ASSUMPTIONS USED TO DERIVE THE FINANCIAL FORECASTS IN THE FPP, INCLUDING THE CMB'S OWN PROJECTION ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF FUEL COSTS.

AT THE MEETING, THE TAC MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE CMB'S MANAGEMENT REVIEW.

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EC IMPOSES PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON HK TV RECEIVERS

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) DESCRIBED AS "REGRETTABLE" A DECISION BY THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO IMPOSE PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES OF 2.1 PER CENT TO 4.8 PER CENT ON SMALL SCREEN COLOUR TELEVISION RECEIVERS FROM HONG KONG.

THE DUTY, EFFECTIVE FROM SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, WILL BE VALID FOR FOUR MONTHS, ALTHOUGH THIS CAN BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO IMPOSE A DEFINITIVE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY.

SIX HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION WHICH WAS INITIATED ON NOVEMBER 12, 1988.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ALAN LAI, SAID THE NORMAL SCENARIO ASSOCIATED WITH DUMPING WAS THAT AN EXPORTER USED HIGH PRICES IN A PROTECTED DOMESTIC MARKET IN ORDER TO REDUCE PRICES OVERSEAS AND THUS UNDERMINE THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

"HONG KONG HAS AN OPEN ECONOMY AND DOES NOT HAVE A PROTECTED MARKET.

"IT IS THUS UNLIKELY THAT HONG KONG COMPANIES, MOST OF WHICH ARE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE, WOULD DUMP," MR LAI SAID.

HE SAID THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WOULD DISCUSS WITH LOCAL MANUFACTURERS WHETHER FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO CHALLENGE ITS FINDINGS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID OF THE EIGHT CASES INITIATED BY THE EEC SINCE DECEMBER 1987, THE POSITION NOW WAS THAT FIVE CASES (CELLULAR MOBILE RADIO TELEPHONES, DENIM, PHOTO ALBUMS, SILICON METAL AND TUNGSTEN ORES) HAD BEEN TERMINATED WITHOUT IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES; DEFINITIVE ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES UP TO 21.9 PER CENT HAD BEEN IMPOSED IN THE CASE OF VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES; AND PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES WERE NOW IN PLACE WITH RESPECT TO AUDIO TAPES (2.4 PER CENT) AND SMALL-SCREEN COLOUR TELEVISION RECEIVERS (UP TO 4.8 PER CENT).

"NO NEW CASES INVOLVING HONG KONG HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. BUT THIS IS NOT A REASON TO RELAX OUR VIGILANCE," MR LAI SAID.

"ALTHOUGH WE ARE GLAD NOT TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN NEW CASES FOR SOME TIME, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE NO NEW CASES IN FUTURE," HE ADDED.

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THREE DB ELECTIONS CANDIDATES WITHDRAW NOMINATIONS

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THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE 1991 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 3 HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR NOMINATIONS TODAY (TUESDAY), REDUCING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO 472.

THEY ARE MR SUNG TIN-HUNG WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR YAU MA TEI EAST CONSTITUENCY IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT; MR PETER CHAN CHI-KWAN WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR KOWLOON TONG CONSTITUENCY IN KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT; AND MR CHOW YUN-HUNG WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR AP LEI CHAU NORTH CONSTITUENCY IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1991

- 4 -

AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 26) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL. THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

A TOTAL OF 70 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING.

THEY ARE:

* FROM 10 AM TO 10.45 AM

AV486	EL1081	EK9226	EL6008	BL3680
EL9666	DA2271	EL3884	CN427	EP2523
EK740	EN915	EM8600	EM129	EL8732
AH5456	EL4006	EP284	EL1011	EM921
CV427	EL448	BM850	EL3345	EL1227
EK531	DR1737	CV6908	EM750	EL486
EM7776	EL4098	AW486	BX1916	BJ1112

* FROM 11 AM TO 11.45 AM

EM6200	EM408	EJ7080	EM7688	AW8348
EM590	BY912	EM1560	EM7891	EM7862
EL4383	CF6779	AG2788	BL1956	EN2343
AT501	EM2155	EM637	EN3555	AK2152
EL3208	AL486	EN129	EM9091	EP8494
EM449	EP8600	EN5768	EN608	EN240
EL9499	EM1500	EP1654	EN1120	BB621

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLES REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 160TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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