



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1977

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO SEK KONG ACCIDENT

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPOINTED A HIGH COURT JUDGE, MR. JUSTICE ZIMMERN, TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE ACCIDENT AT SEK KONG AIRSTRIP ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR IN WHICH TWO PEOPLE DIED AND 65 OTHERS WERE INJURED.

THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN A LIGHTING STAND COLLAPSED DURING A MOTORCYCLE SHOW WHICH WAS BEING BROADCAST LIVE AT THE TIME.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ONE-MAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ARE:

- * TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON THE EVENTS PRECEDING A LIVE TELEVISION BROADCAST BY TELEVISION BROADCASTS LTD. ON JULY 1, 1977 FROM MILITARY LAND AT SEK KONG=
- * TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON THE EVENTS DURING THE EVENING OF JULY 1 BOTH PRIOR TO THE BROADCAST AND WHILE IT WAS TAKING PLACE=
- * HAVING REGARD TO ITS REPORT THEREON, TO APPORTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EVENTS DURING THE EVENING OF JULY 1= AND
- * TO ADVISE ON ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH THE COMMISSION THINKS PROPER.

MR. JUSTICE ZIMMERN IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT HIS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR BEFORE NOVEMBER 19 THIS YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY IT WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER A WIDER AREA THAN A NORMAL CORONER'S INQUIRY.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH ARISE FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF A CORONER'S INQUIRY,+ HE SAID.
+IF THEREFORE ONLY A CORONER'S INQUIRY WAS HELD, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WOULD NOT BE EXAMINED AT A PUBLIC INQUIRY.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MR. JUSTICE ZIMMERN.

MR. JUSTICE ZIMMERN WAS APPOINTED A HIGH COURT JUDGE IN MARCH THIS YEAR. PREVIOUS TO THIS HE WAS A QUEEN'S COUNSEL. HE WAS CALLED TO THE ENGLISH BAR BY THE INNER TEMPLE IN NOVEMBER 1958 AND HAS BEEN PRACTISING IN HONG KONG SINCE 1959.

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RESULTS OF 1976 BY-CENSUS
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HONG KONG'S BIRTH RATE HAS DECLINED, THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IS SMALLER, AND THE MEDIAN AGE HAS RISEN.

THESE AND OTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN A COMPARATIVE SUMMARY WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE FIRST REPORT OF THE 1976 BY-CENSUS PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS, THE ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH RATE BETWEEN 1971-1976 WAS 1.9 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 2.5 PER CENT BETWEEN 1961-1971.

THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE WAS FOUND TO BE 4.2 PERSONS IN 1976 COMPARED WITH 4.5 IN 1971.

LAST YEAR, THE PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED UNDER 15 WAS 30.1 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 35.8 PER CENT FIVE YEARS AGO. BUT THE PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 65 AND OVER WAS 5.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 4.5 PER CENT FIVE YEARS AGO. THE MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION HAS RISEN BY 1.9 YEARS, FROM 22.0 IN 1971 TO 23.9 IN 1976.

THE FIRST BY-CENSUS REPORT CONSISTS OF 24 BASIC CROSS-TABULATIONS WHICH FULLY CONDENSE THE WHOLE RANGE OF BY-CENSUS INFORMATION. THESE TABLES WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES ON COVERAGE AND DEFINITIONS USED WERE PREPARED BY COMPUTER FROM QUESTIONNAIRES COMPLETED BY CENSUS ENUMERATORS DURING THE 1976 BY-CENSUS WHICH COST \$3.5 MILLION. A TOTAL OF 2,650 TEMPORARY STAFF OF TEACHERS AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS WERE ENGAGED IN THE FIELD OPERATION.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR. D.S. WHITELEGGE, SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO PRESENT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INTERESTING AND USEFUL DETAIL AND AT THE SAME TIME A RECOGNISABLE GENERAL PICTURE.

+DETAILED ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE BY-CENSUS RESULTS ARE NOT ATTEMPTED IN THIS REPORT. THIS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE MAIN REPORT OF THE BY-CENSUS WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT YEAR,+ HE EXPLAINED.

A BOOKLET IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH SHOWING THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE CENSUS IN COLOURED DIAGRAMS AND CHARTS WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED SOON.

THE BY-CENSUS WAS CONDUCTED ON A 10 PER CENT RANDOM SAMPLE OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG, AND TOOK PLACE IN JUNE 1976 FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE, AND IN AUGUST FOR THE LAND POPULATION.

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SALARIES TAX PAYABLE BY EMPLOYEES OF
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC TO THE NEED TO DECLARE THE FULL AMOUNT OF INCOME DERIVED FROM EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THE EMOLUMENTS ARE PAID OR WHO PAID THEM.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE ALL INCOME FROM SERVICES RENDERED IN HONG KONG IS SUBJECT TO SALARIES TAX.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CASES RECENTLY INVESTIGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAD BROUGHT TO LIGHT INSTANCES WHERE EMPLOYEES OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS HAD FAILED TO DECLARE SALARIES PAID INTO BANK ACCOUNTS OUTSIDE HONG KONG BY COMPANIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR HONG KONG EMPLOYER.

+IN SOME CASES THIS WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO EVADE HONG KONG TAX AND COULD RENDER THE EMPLOYEE SUBJECT TO SEVERE PENALTIES OR PROSECUTION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IN OTHER CASES THIS MAY HAVE BEEN AN INNOCENT MISTAKE.+

HE URGED THAT ANY PERSONS WHO THINK THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE UNDERSTATED THEIR INCOME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE EITHER BY WRITING OR CALLING MR. WONG HO-SANG ON TELEPHONE NOS. 5-222151 EXTENSION 75 OR 5-95731 EXTENSION 205.

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ANOTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITY FOR KWAI CHUNG

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YOUNGSTERS IN KWAI CHUNG WILL NOW BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE FACILITIES OF A NEW BASKETBALL PITCH -- THANKS TO A JOINT EFFORT BY LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE ARMY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PITCH WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED THIS MORNING BY THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, AND BRIGADIER J.L. CHAPPLE, COMMANDER, GURKHA FIELD FORCE.

THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S SCHOOL IN TSUEN WAN SPENT MONTHS FROM LAST DECEMBER IN BUILDING THE PITCH.

THE 10TH PRINCESS MARY'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES SUPPLIED ALL THE MATERIALS AND THE SUPERVISORY EXPERTISE FOR THE PROJECT.

THE NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITY IS ON AN AREA GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION AT THE JUNCTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND HING FONG ROAD. THE ASSOCIATION WILL MANAGE THE PITCH.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY, A FRIENDLY MATCH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN STUDENTS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S SCHOOL AND SOLDIERS OF THE 10TH PRINCESS MARY'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES.

ADDRESSING THE CEREMONY, MR. HAYES SAID THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION WAS FIRST FORMED IN 1967 AND NOW COMPRISES 21 SPORTS SOCIETIES IN THE DISTRICT.

+IT IS AN IMPORTANT LOCAL AGENCY AND WE CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THAT IT WILL INCREASE IN NUMBERS AND ACTIVITY ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID.

MR. HAYES ALSO THANKED THE 10TH PMO GURKHA RIFLES FOR THE INTEREST THEY HAD SHOWED IN THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

+THIS INTEREST COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE PROVISION AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF MANY RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ETV PRESS CONFERENCE

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RADIO TELEVISION HONGKONG WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE TELEVISION PRODUCTION CENTRE, 79 BROADCAST DRIVE, TO INTRODUCE THIS TERM'S NEW PROGRAMMES MADE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MR. JAMES HAWTHORNE, DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING= MR. D.J.N. KERR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING (TELEVISION)= MR. SIMON LUN SHIU-MING, CONTROLLER OF TELEVISION SECTION= MR. SUN PING-SHU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES)= MR. POON CHUN-PONG, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION) AND MISS MARIA WAN, HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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