



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
INTERESTS OF NT PEOPLE PROTECTED BY NTA	1
TAI PO FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE VISITS SQUATTER AREAS	2
NARCOTICS SEIZURES UP 25 PER CENT	3
CENTRAL AND WESTERN CDC WINDS UP	4
ADVICE GIVEN ON MENTAL HEALTH	5
WATER STORAGE	5
BALLET SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED	6
PARTY FOR CHILDREN	7
DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED	7

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

- 1 -

INTERESTS OF NT PEOPLE PROTECTED BY NTA

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ONE OF THE PRIMARY ROLES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, NOW THE NT REGIONAL WING OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND FURTHER THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE NT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SO FAR AS THIS HAS BEEN WITHIN ITS POWER.

ADDRESSING THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK SPRING FESTIVAL PARTY THIS EVENING (TUESDAY), THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ACTED ON THE ONE HAND AS AN INTERPRETER OF GOVERNMENT POLICY, AND ON THE OTHER AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE NT PEOPLE.

+IT HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CONSTANT CONCERN OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS ARE KEPT REASONABLY BALANCED- THIS HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO ABDICATION OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY AS A RESULT OF THE ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE OR ARE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE - I REFER OF COURSE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1981 AND OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1982,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

+THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OUR TASK IS PERHAPS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE BUT I VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT THE PROGRESS WE SEE ALL AROUND US IN THE NT INDICATES THAT WE HAVE NOT TOTALLY FAILED.

+HOWEVER, WE WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO LOOK TO THE KUK FOR ADVICE WHICH WE HAVE FOUND USEFUL IN THE FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES.+

MR MACPHERSON SAID IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS NO LESS THAN 12 VILLAGES HAD RECEIVED WATER SUPPLY AND DURING THE NEXT YEAR ANOTHER 47 VILLAGES IN 15 AREAS THROUGHOUT THE NT COULD EXPECT TO BENEFIT.

FURTHERMORE, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AIMED TO INTRODUCE A SUPPLY TO MOST NT VILLAGES WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

ON HOUSING, MR MACPHERSON SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO FIND THAT THE RECONVENED JOINT WORKING GROUP WAS PREPARED TO TAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE AND IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF THE SMALL HOUSE POLICY AND THAT IT WOULD NOT EXCLUDE NEW THINKING FROM ITS DELIBERATIONS.

+ON THE QUESTION OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS AS YOU KNOW GIVING URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROBLEM. THE HEUNG YEE KUK WILL SHORTLY BE CONSULTED AND I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PRACTICAL AND SENSIBLE SUGGESTIONS,+ HE SAID.

+SO LET US HOPE THAT IN A SPIRIT OF SINCERITY AND COOPERATION WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.+

/HE SAID

- 2 -

HE SAID THIS SPIRIT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL IN THE JOINT EFFORTS TO KEEP PACE WITH THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NT, AND ALL MUST BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED CONTINUOUSLY TO ADAPT TO THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE EARLY 70S, TO WHICH RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS GAVE RISE.

+WE WILL, THEREFORE, NEED TO LOOK AT OLD POLICIES IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN ORDER TO REACH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS.

+I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT ONLY WITH SUCH THOUGHT IN MIND WILL WE BE ABLE TO OVERCOME PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES DURING THIS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING PERIOD IN THE NT,+ MR MACPHERSON SAID.

ATTENDING THE PARTY WERE 600 GUESTS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LAU WONG-FAT, OTHER KUK MEMBERS, VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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TAI PO FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE VISITS SQUATTER AREAS

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MEMBERS OF TAI PO DISTRICT FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE VISITED THREE SQUATTER AREAS IN THE DISTRICT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO SEE THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY OCCUPIERS TO PREVENT FIRE.

THE VISIT WAS ALSO AIMED AT IDENTIFYING AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

THEY WENT TO PLUMMER VILLAGE, KWONG TAU SHAN SUN TSUEN AND SAM MUN TSAI SUN TSUEN, DISTRIBUTING FIRE-PREVENTION LEAFLETS TO THE RESIDENTS.

THEY ALSO SAW PROGRESS ON ERECTION OF WARNING SIGNBOARDS.

THE THREE SQUATTER AREAS HOUSE ABOUT 6 500 PEOPLE.

THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY AN UNOFFICIAL, MR TANG PUI-TAT. IT COMPRISES 15 OTHER UNOFFICIALS AND SEVEN OFFICIALS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POLICE AND THE FIRE SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENTS.

ALSO AS PART OF ITS FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT TAI PO DISTRICT, THE COMMITTEE ORGANISED A FIRE-PREVENTION QUIZ COMPETITION LAST MONTH FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHICH ATTRACTED MORE THAN 900 ENTRIES. WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY ABOUT PRIZE COLLECTION.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

- 3 -

NARCOTICS SEIZURES UP 25 PER CENT
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VIGILANCE BY HONG KONG'S ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS RESULTED IN A 25 PER CENT INCREASE IN NARCOTICS SEIZURES LAST YEAR, THE HEAD OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE'S INVESTIGATION BUREAU, MR K.S. TONG SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE CITY LIONS' CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING, MR TONG REVIEWED ASPECTS OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING SCENE IN HONG KONG DURING 1981.

THE BUMPER HARVEST IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE HAD BROUGHT DOWN THE PRICE OF NARCOTICS AND CAUSED THE TRAFFICKERS TO WORK OUT NEW SMUGGLING TACTICS, HE SAID.

MR TONG SAID THAT NO. 4 HEROIN, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCOVERED IN MANY YEARS, HAD ONCE AGAIN FOUND ITS WAY INTO HONG KONG.

+LAST YEAR'S FIND OF A HUGE QUANTITY WAS THE FIRST SINCE 1973, WHEN THE SERVICE SMASHED A LARGE NO. 4 HEROIN MANUFACTURING CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+TRAFFICKERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BE USING DIVERSIFIED-ROUTE METHODS TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS INTO HONG KONG VIA THE PHILIPPINES, TAIWAN AND MACAU, AND SOME OTHER NEIGHBOURING AREAS AS TRANSIT PORTS,+ HE SAID.

SMUGGLING OF FAKE OPIUM FROM CHINA WAS DISCOVERED LAST YEAR - TWO CASES IN HONG KONG AND ONE IN MACAU. MR TONG EXPLAINED THAT FAKE OPIUM WAS MANUFACTURED FROM HERBS, AND ITS COLOUR AND ODOUR WERE SIMILAR TO REAL OPIUM.

+FOR MANY YEARS, HONG KONG HAS BEEN A PLACE WHICH DID NOT HAVE DRUG EXPORTS. HOWEVER, THE BIG SEIZURES LAST YEAR AT THE AIRPORT FROM TWO EUROPE-BOUND PASSENGERS, HAS ONCE AGAIN PUT HONG KONG INTO DISREPUTE,+ HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST CASE, THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU SEIZED 1.5 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN IN THREE SALTED-FISH BELONGING TO A FEMALE PASSENGER. IN AUGUST, CUSTOMS SEIZED 1.53 KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN FROM THE LUGGAGE OF A PASSENGER WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR AMSTERDAM.

+THESE WERE ONLY ISOLATED INCIDENTS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ORGANISED SYNDICATES HAVE ONCE AGAIN BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG TO CARRY OUT DRUG-EXPORT ACTIVITIES,+ HE EMPHASISED.

THE PRICE OF NARCOTICS IN HONG KONG, MR TONG SAID, WAS DETERMINED BY SUPPLY AND THE PRICE AT THE SUPPLYING SOURCES.

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AT THE END OF 1980, THE WHOLESAL PRICE OF RAW OPIUM IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA WAS \$2 240 A KILOGRAM COMPARED TO \$500 AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, A DECREASE OF 78 PER CENT. THE PRICE OF NO. 3 HEROIN IN CHING-MAI DECLINED BY 40 PER CENT DURING 1981.

IN HONG KONG THE WHOLESAL PRICE OF RAW OPIUM DECLINED BY 12 PER CENT FROM \$19 800 A KILOGRAM IN AUGUST 1980 TO \$17 500 IN DECEMBER 1981, AND THE WHOLESAL PRICE OF NO. 3 HEROIN DROPPED BY 54 PER CENT FROM \$137 780 A KILOGRAM IN AUGUST 1980 TO \$63 800 IN DECEMBER 1981, HE SAID.

MR TONG ALSO DETAILED VARIOUS METHODS TRAFFICKERS EMPLOYED AND HOW THE OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WERE BEING USED TO SMUGGLE HUGE QUANTITIES OF NARCOTICS.

A VERY CLOSE WATCH WOULD BE KEPT BY THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AGAINST ALL SMUGGLING ATTEMPTS, HE SAID.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN CDC WINDS UP
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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE WHICH HAS REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE PAST YEARS IS WINDING UP TO MAKE WAY FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD NEXT MONTH.

AT ITS FINAL MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY), THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR TONY CLARK, THANKED ALL THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION OVER THE YEARS AND PRESENTED THEM WITH LETTERS OF APPRECIATION.

CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEES (CDC'S) WERE SET UP IN ALL URBAN DISTRICTS IN THE LATE 1960'S TO BRING TOGETHER NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE DISTRICTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE AREAS.

+THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN AN UNDOUBTED SUCCESS,+ SAID MR CLARK, +PARTICULARLY SO IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN WHERE CDC MEETINGS HAVE SEEN SOME FORTHRIGHT AND VERY ENCOURAGING DEBATE ACROSS THE TABLE.+

HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE SYSTEM WAS NOT BEING SCRAPPED BUT BEING STRENGTHENED WITH THE FORMATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS WHICH WILL PROVIDE A STRONGER SYSTEM OF RESPONSE ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AND AN ELEMENT OF ELECTED REPRESENTATION ON THE UNOFFICIAL SIDE.

MR CLARK NOTED THAT CENTRAL AND WESTERN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE HEART OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, THE CENTRE OF THE BUSINESS AND TRADING COMMUNITY AND PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD FOR THE TERRITORY.

+WHAT GOES ON HERE AFFECTS EVERYBODY, SO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CDC HAS HAD AN EXTREMELY USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY.

+IF THE DISTRICT BOARD IS HALF AS EFFECTIVE AS THE CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE,+ HE ADDED, +IT WILL BE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.+

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ADVICE GIVEN ON MENTAL HEALTH

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THE KEY TO SOUND MENTAL HEALTH LIES IN STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN WORK AND LEISURE AND MAINTAINING A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

THE ADVICE WAS GIVEN BY DR S.C. LEUNG, HEAD OF THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH EXHIBITION HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME STARTED LAST YEAR TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH.

DR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE UNDER STRESS AND STRAIN, A COMMON OCCURRENCE IN THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALISED AND ADVANCED SOCIETIES DUE TO KEEN COMPETITION, CROWDEDNESS, POLLUTION AND PARTICULARLY, A GROWING LACK OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION.

EXPLAINING THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF MENTAL PATIENTS, SHE SAID THAT ACCEPTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT ON THEIR PART WOULD HELP PATIENTS REHABILITATE AND INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE SAID IT WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND TO SEEK EARLY TREATMENT.

+ONLY BY EARLY TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS, SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION AND PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY CAN MENTAL DISEASE BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED,+ SHE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY THE WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR I.R. STRACHAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, DR CONRAD LAM AND MRS NG CHOW MAY-LIN.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM FROM TODAY TO FRIDAY.

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WATER STORAGE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 42.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY, OR 246.520 MILLION CUBIC METRES, EQUAL TO 216 DAYS' CONSUMPTION.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 272.723 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 47.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

- 6 -

BALLET SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WHICH ORGANISES AND PROVIDES COURSES ON INTRODUCTORY BALLET FOR HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN THROUGHOUT HONG KONG HAS BEEN OFFERED SUPPORT BY A LEADING HONG KONG BALLET SCHOOL.

THE JEAN WONG BALLET SCHOOL HAS OFFERED A NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO TALENTED STUDENTS BEING TRAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

AS A RESULT OF THE OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS, SOME 300 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM STUDENTS UNDERGOING ELEMENTARY BALLET CLASSES IN RSS CENTRES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+AND MORE APPLICATIONS ARE POURING IN,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

+THE OFFER OF THE SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE 1982 ARTS FESTIVAL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ONE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP IS ELIGIBLE TO BOYS AND GIRLS AGED BETWEEN NINE AND 12. EACH IS WORTH ABOUT \$2 700 IN LESSONS HELD THREE TIMES A WEEK EITHER ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR IN KOWLOON.

+IT IS RENEWABLE AT THE END OF THE YEAR, DEPENDING ON PROGRESS MADE BY THE STUDENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED.

THE SELECTION OF A SUITABLE APPLICANT WILL BE MADE BY A PANEL OF SIX JUDGES : TWO FROM THE RSS, TWO FROM THE SCHOOL, AN ARTIST FROM NEW YORK'S JOFFREY BALLET COMPANY WHICH WILL BE PERFORMING HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARTS FESTIVAL, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ARTS FESTIVAL.

THE RSS STARTED ELEMENTARY BALLET CLASSES IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 DURING WHICH 120 STUDENTS WERE TRAINED.

TODAY, THE SERVICE IS RUNNING 28 INTRODUCTORY BALLET CLASSES AT VARIOUS CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THERE ARE SOME 800 PUPILS STUDYING BALLET FOR A FEE OF \$3 EACH PER COURSE.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982

- 7 -

PARTY FOR CHILDREN

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THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARTY OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 21) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPOUND, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

OVER 1 500 CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE PARTY, WHICH WILL START AT 1 PM.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE VARIOUS SIDE-SHOWS, AND A MERRY-GO-ROUND, AS WELL AS A CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION, GAMES STALLS, A MAGIC AND ACROBATIC SHOW, AND A SHOOTING GALLERY.

THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR R. KILVERT, WILL PRESENT SPORTS TROPHIES AND BANNERS TO THE WINNERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SPORTS EVENTS.

MRS A.H. HSU, WIFE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION.

THE PARTY WILL END AT 5 PM, WITH A LUCKY DRAW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARTY OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GSD COMPOUND, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT, FROM 1 TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 21).

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON LAW WING-HONG ON DECEMBER 15, 1980 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO IMPRISONMENT OF 25 YEARS.

LAW WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF A WOMAN, WONG SIU-LING, IN YU CHAU STREET, KOWLOON ON MARCH 9, 1980.

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