



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1983

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GROWING NEED FOR MICROCOMPUTERS
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SETTING UP A MICROCOMPUTER CENTRE SHORTLY TO SUPPORT THE USE OF MICROCOMPUTERS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

AT PRESENT, MICROCOMPUTERS ARE BEING USED IN A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY OVER THE YEARS.

+BESIDES LARGE ADMINISTRATIVE DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS, THERE IS ALSO A GROWING NEED FOR MICROCOMPUTERS AND OFFICE SYSTEMS, AND SPECIAL ATTENTION IS BEING DEVOTED TO THESE FAIRLY NEW BUT IMPORTANT AREAS,+ MR STEPHEN LAU, MANAGER OF THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY (GDPA), SAID.

THE CENTRE, TO BE ESTABLISHED IN GDPA, WILL ADVISE ON CONTRACTS AND EVALUATION, DEVELOP PROGRAMMES, SET UP GUIDELINES AND PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP SERVICES, WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING RELEVANT MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+WELL ORGANISED PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FROM THE START COULD AVOID SERIOUS OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE,+ MR LAU STRESSED.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT IN FUTURE, OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AT GOVERNMENT OFFICES WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED WITH SUCH DEVICES AS WORD PROCESSORS, ELECTRONIC FILES, ELECTRONIC MAIL AND FACSIMILE SERVICES WHEREBY INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED, COMPILED, ASSESSED AND TRANSMITTED WITH BETTER EFFICIENCY AND GREATER SPEED.

+IN ADDITION, MICROCOMPUTERS ARE LESS EXPENSIVE, FLEXIBLE AND EASY TO OPERATE. THEY ARE THUS USEFUL IN AREAS WHERE LARGE COMPUTERS ARE NOT JUSTIFIED,+ MR LAU EXPLAINED.

AT PRESENT, EXAMPLES OF MICROCOMPUTER USAGE INCLUDE THE RECORDING AND PROCESSING OF PERSONNEL FILES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE TEACHING OF COMPUTER COURSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

APART FROM EXPLOITING THE MICROCOMPUTER REVOLUTION, GDPA WILL CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MAJOR EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LARGE-SCALE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

CURRENTLY, MORE THAN 70 SYSTEMS FOR OVER 30 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE IN OPERATION.

AMONG MAJOR SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTED RECENTLY ARE:

- * THE IDENTITY CARD INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH ENABLES THE ISSUE OF NEW ID CARDS FOR MORE THAN FIVE MILLION RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG WITHIN FOUR YEARS.
- * THE POLICE NOMINAL INDEX COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH RECORDS CRIMINAL DATA FOR OPERATIONAL REFERENCE.

- * THE PRIMARY ONE ALLOCATION SYSTEM FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

A SYSTEM WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO RECORD ALL PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICANTS AND DEPENDENTS AND TO COMPUTERISE PAYMENT PROCEDURES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, DISABILITY AND OLD AGE ALLOWANCES.

+THIS SYSTEM WILL GREATLY SPEED UP THE PAYMENT PROCESSING OF EACH CASE, AVOID DUPLICATION AND PROVIDE ACCURATE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES,+ MR LAU EXPLAINED.

COMPUTER PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

- * THE EXTENSION OF THE TEXTILE QUOTA LICENSING SYSTEM FOR COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U.S. AND THE EEC IN THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TO ENABLE ALL EXPORT LICENCES TO BE ISSUED WITHIN 48 HOURS.
- * ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS FOR HOSPITALS.
- * A LAND REGISTRATION RECORD DATABASE FOR THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT FOR EFFICIENT SEARCH OF TITLE DEEDS.
- * A NEW COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE POLICE FORCE TO FURTHER ENHANCE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.
- * AN IMMIGRATION CONTROL SYSTEM TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY AT CONTROL POINTS.
- * A CENTRAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL DATA FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.
- * PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN LARGE DEPARTMENTS FOR RECORD-KEEPING, TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT PURPOSES.

BECAUSE OF THE FAST-CHANGING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, GDPA MUST STAY ABREAST OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS ARE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR LAU POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG NOW RANKS FIRST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN TERMS OF THE SOPHISTICATION AND THE LEVEL OF COMPUTER USAGE, WITH THE GOVERNMENT, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF COMPUTERS.

+HOWEVER, ATTENTION IS INCREASINGLY BEING DRAWN TO THE ISSUE OF PRIVACY, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A WORKING GROUP ON DATA PROTECTION.

+THE GROUP WILL CONSIDER WHETHER EXISTING MEASURES ARE ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL DATA STORED IN GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS AND, IF NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED, + MR LAU SAID.

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CAPITATION GRANT FOR SCHOOLS INCREASED

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CAPITATION GRANT FOR AIDED SECONDARY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT \$150 PER PUPIL PER ANNUM TO \$175 WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1983.

THE GRANTS FOR AIDED TECHNICAL AND PRE-VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO BEEN REVISED FROM \$180 AND \$200 PER PUPIL PER ANNUM TO \$240 AND \$300 RESPECTIVELY.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR SCHOOLS RUNNING SPECIAL CLASSES WILL ALSO RECEIVE A REVISED GRANT OF \$3 200 AND \$7 000 PER CLASS PER ANNUM RESPECTIVELY WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT \$2 210 AND \$4 620.

THE CAPITATION GRANT IS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO AIDED SCHOOLS TO ENABLE THEM TO PAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN RELATION TO THE RUNNING OF THE SCHOOLS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

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SITE GRANTED FOR BBC RELAY STATION

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE THE BBC WITH A SITE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FAR EASTERN RELAY STATION.

THE DECISION WAS APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO SEVERAL POSSIBLE SITES BY AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP AND TECHNICAL TEAMS FROM BOTH HONG KONG AND THE BBC.

A SITE AT TSANG TSUI, TUEN MUN HAS BEEN FOUND TO MEET TECHNICAL CRITERIA BEST. IT WILL BE PROVIDED AT A COST TO THE BBC EQUAL TO THE COST OF MAKING THE SITE AVAILABLE.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS BUDGETED 8.4 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RELAY STATION, WHICH IS PART OF A 10-YEAR, 100 MILLION POUNDS STERLING PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE BBC'S AUDIBILITY AROUND THE WORLD.

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WATER MAINS TESTS IN TWO AREAS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN YUEN LONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 18) TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY FOR MAINS LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY YUEN LONG TAI YUK ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD, INCLUDING SHUI PING TSUEN, SHUI NGAU LENG COTTAGE AREA, LAM HAU, SHAN HA TSUEN, LEI TSUEN AND TWO BEAN CURD PRODUCTS FACTORIES.

AND FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE TURNED OFF ALSO FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHEUNG TAK STREET, SHA TIN PASS ROAD AND CHOI HUNG ROAD, INCLUDING KAI MING HOUSE AND BLOCKS 1, 2, 20-25 OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

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CHEUNG SHA RESIDENTS GET NEW BASKETBALL COURT
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A NEW BASKETBALL COURT FOR RESIDENTS OF CHEUNG SHA ON SOUTH LANTAU WILL BE OPEN ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 17) MORNING BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP.

THE BASKETBALL COURT IS BUILT AT A COST OF \$100 000 FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS.

OTHER GUESTS OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS, MR TANG TAI-CHUEN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH LANTAU RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAU YUNG-FUK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY AT 10.30 AM. THE MARINE LAUNCH +CLEMENTI+ WILL LEAVE THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PIER NEXT TO THE OUTLYING ISLANDS FERRY PIER ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AT 9.15 AM SHARP.

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PARKING METERS FOR SHA TIN
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A TOTAL OF 185 PARKING METERS WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL AT FO TAN AND TAI WAI IN SHA TIN FROM 8 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), TO FACILITATE A BETTER UTILISATION OF ON-STREET PARKING SPACES.

THERE WILL BE 71 ONE-HOUR GOODS VEHICLE SPACES, 69 TWO-HOUR PRIVATE CAR SPACES AND 45 HALF-HOUR PRIVATE CAR SPACES.

OPERATING HOURS OF THESE METERS WILL BE FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STREET
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SHIP STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 5 PM AND 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 17) TO ALLOW FOR THE BY-ELECTION OF THE WAN CHAI WEST CONSTITUENCY OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

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TRAVEL TIME CUT FOR TAI WAI RESIDENTS
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RESIDENTS OF TAI WAI, IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN PART OF SHA TIN, WILL NOW ONLY TAKE SIX MINUTES TO TRAVEL TO THE TOWN CENTRE, FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF A TEMPORARY RAILWAY STATION THERE TODAY (MONDAY).

AND TO COPE WITH THE OPENING OF THE STATION, A NEW FEEDER BUS ROUTE, NO. 80K, WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED FROM SUN CHUI ESTATE VIA THE TEMPORARY STATION TO SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE.

THREE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS - MR NG CHAN-LAM, A RESIDENT OF TAI WAI VILLAGE, MRS CHAN LO YIN-BING, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, AND MR WAI HON-LEUNG - THIS MORNING TOOK THEIR FIRST RIDE FROM THE UNIVERSITY STATION TO TAI WAI.

THERE, THEY WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE SERVICE WOULD PROVIDE A MORE CONVENIENT MEANS OF TRANSPORT NOT JUST FOR RESIDENTS OF TAI WAI VILLAGE, AND SUN CHUI AND MEI LAM PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BUT ALSO FOR WORKERS IN TUNG LO WAN INDUSTRIAL AREA.

A PERMANENT RAILWAY STATION IN TAI WAI, ABOUT 300 METRES SOUTH OF THE TEMPORARY ONE, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN MID-1986.

ANOTHER NEW STATION WILL BE BUILT IN FO TAN IN EARLY 1985 TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC LINK WITH THE INDUSTRIAL AREA.

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MORE PEAK BUSES AND MAXICABS

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ADDITIONAL BUSES AND MAXICABS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO COPE WITH INCREASED PASSENGER DEMAND DURING THE PRESENT STOPPAGE OF THE PEAK TRAM.

THE PEAK TRAM SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR REPAIR WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

CHINA MOTOR BUS WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BUSES ON ITS ROUTE 15, WHICH RUNS FROM CENTRAL BUS STATION TO THE PEAK, AND EXTRA VEHICLES WILL BE DEPLOYED ON MAXICAB ROUTE ONE, FROM HMS TAMAR TO THE PEAK.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 87.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 503.392 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 408.494 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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