



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1985

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YEAR OF STEADY PROGRESS -- GOVERNOR
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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR:

+1985 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF STEADY PROGRESS FOR HONG KONG.

+ALTHOUGH GROWTH IN SOME AREAS HAS NOT BEEN AS FAST AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, THE ECONOMY HAS REMAINED SOUND, THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS COME INTO BEING, AND MANY PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO THE HONG KONG PUBLIC HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

+IN THE COMING YEAR, WE SHALL ALL NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE AND STRIVE TO ACHIEVE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

+I WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.+

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VALUE OF INSURED LETTERS, PARCELS INCREASED
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WITH EFFECT FROM THURSDAY (JANUARY 2), THE MAXIMUM INSURED VALUE FOR INSURED LETTERS AND PARCELS TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WOULD BE INCREASED TO \$17 500, A SPOKESMAN OF THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THESE COUNTRIES INCLUDE CYPRUS, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, FRENCH WEST INDIES, GREAT BRITAIN, JAPAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MACAU, SINGAPORE, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

+THE NEW INSURANCE LIMIT WILL ENABLE CUSTOMERS TO SEND THROUGH THE POST GOODS AND MERCHANDISE OF A MUCH HIGHER VALUE WITHOUT THE NEED TO RESORT TO PRIVATE INSURANCE FACILITIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE INSURANCE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE LOCAL POST OFFICE OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU AT 5-231071.

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WASTE DISPOSAL ESSENTIAL TO CITY DEVELOPMENT
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THE CROWDED LIVING CONDITIONS SO APPARENT IN HONG KONG AND THE HOT AND HUMID CLIMATE FOR MUCH OF THE YEAR DICTATE THE PROMPT REMOVAL OF DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES AND THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE SEWERAGE.

FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTES IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE MANAGEMENT OF ANY CITY.

WITHOUT SUCH SERVICES, INSANITARY, HAZARDOUS AND OFFENSIVE CONDITIONS COULD DEVELOP QUICKLY THREATENING HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF INHABITANTS.

THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT 1985, THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, DISCLOSED THAT WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES ALREADY COVERED MOST PARTS OF THE TERRITORY, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED FOR THESE SERVICES WAS CHANGING ALL THE TIME.

FOR EXAMPLE, AS A RESULT OF INCREASING AFFLUENCE AND POPULATION, THE AMOUNT OF SOLID WASTE EACH DAY IS PROJECTED TO DOUBLE FROM 6 400 TONNES IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

THE REVIEW POINTED OUT THAT THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS AT JUNK BAY, TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, TIN SHUI WAI AND ELSEWHERE, MEANT THAT PLACES WHERE WASTES ORIGINATED WERE CHANGING CONTINUALLY.

ANOTHER FACTOR THAT WAS GIVING RISE TO CHANGES IN THE NEED FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WAS THE PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROLS.

THE TREATMENT PROCESSES USED TO CONTROL POLLUTION THEMSELVES PRODUCED WASTES WHICH REQUIRED DISPOSAL. SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, FOR EXAMPLE, PRODUCED SLUDGE AND ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS IN THE FLUE GAS STREAM FROM COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS PRODUCED PULVERISED FUEL ASH.

THUS, A NEW RANGE OF WASTES WAS BEING GENERATED THAT REQUIRED SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR DISPOSAL.

ALSO, MANY OF THE EXISTING WASTE DISPOSAL SITES WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE WHEN PLANNED AND MANY POTENTIAL SITES EARMARKED FOR THE FUTURE WERE NOW UNACCEPTABLE AS THEY HAD BECOME ENGULFED BY THE ENDLESS TIDE OF URBAN EXPANSION, OR THEY DID NOT MEET THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN RELATION TO THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT.

ADVERSE REACTION OF THE POPULATION TO EMISSIONS FROM INCINERATORS, TO POLLUTION OF BEACHES BY SEWAGE DISCHARGES OR TO THE DESECRATION OF PREVIOUSLY CLEAN STREAMS BY AGRICULTURAL WASTES, WERE EXAMPLES OF SITUATIONS THAT THE PUBLIC APPEARS INCREASINGLY LESS INCLINED TO TOLERATE.

/TO COPE

TO COPE WITH THESE CHANGES AND TO ENSURE THAT A SAFE, HYGIENIC AND ECONOMIC SERVICE COULD BE PROVIDED AT ALL TIMES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO PREPARE PLANS WELL IN ADVANCE.

THESE PLANS MUST BE BASED ON THE BEST POSSIBLE FORECASTS OF FUTURE NEEDS. THEY MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF INCREASINGLY DEMANDING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC AND MUST ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR PROVISION OF NEW FACILITIES OR THE REPLACEMENT OF THOSE EXISTING MEANS OF DISPOSAL WHICH HAVE REACHED THE END OF THEIR USEFUL OR ECONOMIC LIFE.

AN IMPORTANT IMPLICATION OF THE CHANGING SITUATION WAS THAT WASTES WHETHER LIQUID OR SOLID WOULD NEED TO BE TRANSPORTED GREATER DISTANCES FOR DISPOSAL AT MORE REMOTE SITES THAN AT PRESENT.

THE REVIEW SAID THAT TO MEET ALL THE RELEVANT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTAINING THE SUBSTANTIAL COSTS INVOLVED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY ALL THE REALISTIC OPTIONS AND LAY CAREFUL PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW, THE MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING 1984-85 INCLUDED:

- * AGREEMENT REACHED ON A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL;
- * THE COMPLETION OF A SCHEME FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SLUDGE ARISING FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING SEWAGE TREATMENT, WATER TREATMENT, AGRICULTURAL WASTE CONTROL AND INDUSTRY;
- * A WASTE MANAGEMENT MODEL -- A COMPUTER BASED STRATEGIC PLANNING AID THAT HAD BEEN APPLIED TO EVALUATE OPTIONS IN BOTH FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL TERMS FOR SPECIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHEMES NOTABLY FOR KOWLOON;
- * AGREEMENT ON AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE DISPOSAL OF PULVERISED FUEL ASH FROM THE CASTLE PEAK COAL-FIRED POWER STATION FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN INTENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT BY THE COMPANY;
- * A WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING SECTION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER OF THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES -- THE MANUAL THAT DIRECTS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN HONG KONG;

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- * THE SPECIFICATION FOR AN INTEGRATED TREATMENT FACILITY FOR TOXIC, HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT WASTES, LEADING TO AN INVITATION BY PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING AND OPERATING THE FACILITY ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT; AND
- * A CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES COMPLETED AND ENDORSED BY EPCOM, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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INTELPOST SERVICE EXTENDED TO CANADA
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THE INTELPOST (INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC POST) NETWORK FROM HONG KONG WILL BE EXTENDED TO CANADA FROM THURSDAY (JANUARY 2), A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

INTELPOST ITEMS POSTED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY THE ADDRESSEE AT THE INTELPOST CENTRES THROUGHOUT CANADA OR DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE IN 51 CITIES OF THE COUNTRY THE SAME DAY.

CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE TO CANADA WILL BE: FOR SHORT MESSAGE FACILITY \$45; FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER \$55; FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME \$30.

THOSE WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICE SHOULD HAND IN THEIR DOCUMENTS AT ANY ONE OF THE 23 ACCEPTANCE OFFICES.

INTELPOST IS NOW AVAILABLE TO 35 COUNTRIES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 5-2671148.

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MEET THE MEDIA
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THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, WING COMMANDER ALISTAIR ASPREY, WILL MEET THE MEDIA ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 2) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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YUEN LONG DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO MEET
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING ON JANUARY 2 (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR THE HOLDING OF A LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR IN THE DISTRICT, AND THE ORGANISING OF RECREATION AND SPORTS PROGRAMMES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH FOR YUEN LONG RESIDENTS.

IT WILL ALSO DECIDE ON THE NAMING OF THE FIRST INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION CLOSED
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TO FACILITATE THE TRANSPORTATION OF A 130-TONNE TRANSFORMER BY CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED, SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION BETWEEN WAH KING HILL ROAD AND BUTTERFLY VALLEY INTERCHANGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 2.15 AM TO 4.15 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 3).

SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA WAH KING HILL ROAD, TAI WO INTERCHANGE, WAH YIU ROAD, LAI CHI LING ROAD, LIM CHO STREET, KING CHO ROAD, LAI KING HILL ROAD, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL INTERCHANGE, KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND/OR CHING CHEUNG ROAD.

MOTORISTS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA KWAI CHUNG ROAD TO KOWLOON AND AVOID CASTLE PEAK ROAD DURING THE CLOSURE.

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