



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1977

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OPENS HK POLYTECHNIC LIBRARY
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HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA THIS (MONDAY) MORNING VISITED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC IN HUNG HOM AND OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS LIBRARY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND BUSINESS LIBRARIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE PRINCESS SAID THAT HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY DEPENDED UPON ITS ABILITY TO SELL ITS MANUFACTURED GOODS IN COUNTRIES OVERSEAS.

+TO SUCCEED IN THIS, IN TODAY'S HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD, HONG KONG NEEDS THE SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE WHO WORK IN ITS INDUSTRIES,+ THE PRINCESS SAID.

+THIS POLYTECHNIC, THEREFORE, IS PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BY TRAINING STUDENTS IN A WIDE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SUBJECTS.+

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WAS GLAD TO KNOW THAT MOST OF THE GRANT MADE BY BRITAIN TO THE POLYTECHNIC HAD BEEN SPENT ON BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY.

THIS GRANT, THE PRINCESS SAID, SHOULD BE SEEN AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF BRITISH SUPPORT FOR THE ROLE OF THE POLYTECHNIC, AND ALSO AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO HONG KONG.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS SAID: +NO PLACE OF LEARNING IS COMPLETE OR EFFECTIVE WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE LIBRARY, PROVIDING THE RAW MATERIALS ON WHICH STUDENTS AND RESEARCH WORKERS MAY BUILD THEIR KNOWLEDGE, AND SO I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAVE ASKED ME TO OPEN SUCH AN ESSENTIAL ADDITION TO YOUR POLYTECHNIC.

EARLIER, DR. S.Y. CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE POLYTECHNIC, IN HIS SPEECH EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE DONATION BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

+THE VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS,+ HE ADDED, +IS YET ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION THAT, DESPITE THE ENORMOUS DISTANCE WHICH SEPARATES US GEOGRAPHICALLY, BRITAIN AND HONG KONG HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, MUCH TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER AND MUCH TO GAIN FROM CONTINUED CO-OPERATION AND THE MUTUAL ENRICHMENT OF OUR TWO CULTURES.+

AFTER HAVING DECLARED THE LIBRARY OPEN BY UNVEILING A PLAQUE, THE PRINCESS WAS INTRIGUED BY THE INSCRIPTIONS IN CHINESE ON IT. DR. CHUNG READILY PROVIDED A TRANSLATION AND EXPLAINED THE LITERAL MEANING OF HER NAME IN CHINESE - PRINCESS EXQUISITELY-BEAUTIFUL CORAL.

/HER ROYAL

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THEN WALKED THROUGH THE LIBRARY AND INSPECTED SOME OF ITS WELL-DESIGNED BOOK RACKS AND EQUIPMENT. THE PRINCESS ALSO TALKED TO SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHO WERE READING AT THEIR DESKS AND ENQUIRED ABOUT THEIR STUDIES AND CAREER.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE ACCOMPANIED PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY IN THE VISIT TO THE POLYTECHNIC. THEY WERE RECEIVED BY DR. CHUNG AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE POLYTECHNIC ON ARRIVAL.

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VITAL ROLE OF POLYTECHNIC IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC LIBRARY TODAY.

+THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR YOUR WELCOME. I AM SO VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO VISIT THIS IMPORTANT CENTRE OF HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

+NO PLACE OF LEARNING IS COMPLETE OR EFFECTIVE WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE LIBRARY, PROVIDING THE RAW MATERIALS ON WHICH STUDENTS AND RESEARCH WORKERS MAY BUILD THEIR KNOWLEDGE, AND SO I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAVE ASKED ME TO OPEN SUCH AN ESSENTIAL ADDITION TO YOUR POLYTECHNIC.

+HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY DEPENDS UPON ITS ABILITY TO SELL ITS MANUFACTURED GOODS IN COUNTRIES OVERSEAS. TO SUCCEED IN THIS, IN TODAY'S HIGHLY COMPETITIVE WORLD, HONG KONG NEEDS THE SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE OF THOSE WHO WORK IN ITS INDUSTRIES.

+THIS POLYTECHNIC, THEREFORE, IS PLAYING A VITAL ROLE IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BY TRAINING STUDENTS IN A WIDE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SUBJECTS.

+I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT MOST OF THE GRANT MADE BY BRITAIN HAS BEEN SPENT ON BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY. THIS GRANT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF BRITISH SUPPORT FOR THE ROLE OF THE POLYTECHNIC, AND ALSO AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO HONG KONG.

+IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DECLARE THE LIBRARY OPEN, AND MY GOOD WISHES GO TO ALL THOSE WHO STUDY HERE, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.+

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA VISITS CHINESE PORCELAIN EXHIBITION

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA THIS MORNING VISITED THE CHINESE PORCELAIN EXHIBITION WHICH IS JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE MIN CHIU SOCIETY AT THE CITY HALL.

THE PRINCESS AND THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY WERE WELCOMED AT THE LOBBY OF THE CITY HALL HIGH BLOCK BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR. THE HON. HENRY HU= THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MUSEUMS SELECT COMMITTEE, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR. BRIAN WILSON.

THERE WAS A CROWD GATHERING AROUND THE LOBBY TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE PRINCESS WHO WAVED WARMLY TO THEM.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AND THE WELCOMING PARTY ASCENDED BY LIFT TO THE MUSEUM OF ART ON THE 10TH FLOOR WHERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MIN CHIU SOCIETY, MR. QUINCY CHUANG AND THE CITY HALL MUSEUM CURATOR, MR. LAURENCE TAM, WERE AWAITING TO GREET THE PRINCESS.

THE PRINCESS THEN WENT INTO THE MUSEUM TO SEE THE 157 ITEMS OF MONO-CHROME PORCELAIN OF THE MING AND THE CHING DYNASTIES ON DISPLAY, RANGING FROM HUGE VASES TO TINY SAUCERS SELECTED FROM COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM OF ART, MEMBERS OF THE MIN CHIU SOCIETY, MUSEUMS OF THE TWO LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN A SET OF VIOLET-COLOURED PEONY FLOWER WATERDROPPERS AND A HUGE ROBIN'S EGG VASE GLAZED IN BLUE.

AT THE END OF THE 30-MINUTE VISIT, THE PRINCESS WAS PRESENTED A BOOK DESCRIBING THE EXHIBITS BY MR. HENRY HU.

THE PRODUCTION OF THE MONO-CHROME PORCELAIN WAS ONE OF THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF CERAMIC ART DURING THE MING AND THE CHING DYNASTIES. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA VISITS SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE

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AGAINST THE SCENIC SETTING OF BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND BRIGHT SUNSHINE, WITH COLOURFUL BALLONS SURGING TOWARDS A BLUE SKY, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON UNVEILED A PLAQUE AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE MARKING HER VISIT TO THE CENTRE AND ITS OFFICIAL OPENING.

THE PRINCESS AND HER HUSBAND, THE HON. ANGUS OGILVY, WERE GREETED ON ARRIVAL AT THE CENTRE BY MR. DENIS BRAY, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS= MR. MICHAEL CASWELL, PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND SPORT UNIT, AS WELL AS MISS BETTY MAIR AND MR. DICKEN YUNG OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

AFTER UNVEILING THE PLAQUE, THE ROYAL COUPLE TOURED THE 25-ACRE CENTRE AND OBSERVED AT CLOSE QUARTERS HOW THE YOUNG, THE OLD AND THE HANDICAPPED TAKE PART IN A WIDE RANGE OF SPORT ACTIVITIES.

THE ROYAL VISITORS FIRST WENT UP A MOUND TO WATCH A GROUP OF MIDDLE-AGED AND ELDERLY PEOPLE PRACTISING CHINESE SHADOW BOXING (TAI CHI). THE PRINCESS SHOWED A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE SLOW BUT DISCIPLINED MOVEMENTS OF TAI CHI AND CHATTED AMICABLY WITH A WOMAN MEMBER OF THE GROUP. A BEAMING MR. OGILVY WENT SO FAR AS TO MIMICK A FEW MOVEMENTS.

DURING THE HOUR-LONG TOUR, THE ROYAL COUPLE ALSO SAW YOUNGSTERS TAKING PART IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHINESE FOLK DANCING, FENCING, ROPEWORK AND ARCHERY. THEY ALSO SAW A BASKETBALL SESSION FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

WHEREVER HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WENT, THE PRINCESS WAS GREETED WITH CHEERS AND SMILING FACES.

ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA STOPPED AND TALKED TO SOME OF THE YOUNGSTERS ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT SPORT ACTIVITIES.

THE ROYAL VISITORS ALSO INSPECTED ONE OF THE COMFORTABLE AND BRIGHTLY-COLOURED DORMITORIES CONVERTED FROM NISSEN HUTS. THE PRINCESS CAME AWAY IMPRESSED BY THE FACILITIES PROVIDED IN THE DORMITORY.

THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF A FORMER ARMY CAMP. IT IS THE FIRST OUTDOOR HOLIDAY RESORT OF ITS KIND MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO OFFER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BOTH THE ABLE-BODIED AND THE HANDICAPPED ON A LARGE AND ECONOMICAL BASIS. IT IS OPERATED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

AT PRESENT, THE CENTRE CAN PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR SOME 200 RESIDENTIAL CAMPERS. IT WILL BE EXPANDED LATER TO CATER FOR 400.

CAMPERS ARE CHARGED \$5 EACH FOR LODGING AND \$4 FOR A MEAL. AS FOR DAY CAMPERS, A NOMINAL FEE OF \$1 EACH IS CHARGED.

OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, OVER 15,000 PEOPLE HAD USED THE CENTRE THOUGH CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION WORK OF THE CENTRE WAS UNDERWAY.

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HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA'S VISIT
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDRA'S PROGRAMME FOR TOMORROW (TUESDAY) :-

- (I) 10.40 A.M. VISIT NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT, HING WAH ESTATE, CHAI WAN.
(TRANSPORT FOR ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK AT 9.15 A.M. SHARP. PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE PRESS PARTY AT POSITION +A+ OUTSIDE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE TO THE PAVEMENT OUTSIDE THE ESTATE MARKET WHILE THE PRINCESS IS MEETING MAC REPRESENTATIVES. POSITIONS +B+ BESIDE MAC REPRESENTATIVES ON STREET AND +C+ ON THE ELEVATED WALKWAY ONLY FOR TV AND CINE-CAMERAMEN WILL BE FIXED. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESS PARTIES TO FOLLOW THE PRINCESS TO THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE).

- (II) 10.57 A.M. VISIT CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE.
(TRANSPORT FOR ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK AT 9.30 A.M. SHARP. THE PRESS PARTIES AT POSITIONS +A+ AND +B+ WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE TO A POSITION INSIDE THE CENTRE'S MULTI-PURPOSE HALL.)

- (III) 4.45 P.M. COMMUNITY RECEPTION, CONVENTION CENTRE.
(TRANSPORT FOR ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CARPARK AT 4 P.M. SHARP.)

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TWO MORE COUNTRY PARKS TO BE GAZETTED
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TWO MORE COUNTRY PARKS, ONE IN THE ABERDEEN RESERVOIRS COMPLEX AND THE OTHER AT TYTAM IN WONG NEI CHONG, ARE EXPECTED TO BE GAZETTED SOON, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. E.H. NICHOLS, SAID IN A LUNCHEON TALK TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF VICTORIA TODAY.

THE TWO AREAS WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY PARKS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND ARE ALREADY DEVELOPED AND SERVED BY MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

+LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD,+ MR. NICHOLS WENT ON, +PLANNING IS WELL ADVANCED FOR THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA, WHICH IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL OUR RECREATIONAL AREAS.+

HE SAID THE FIRST NEW MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THIS AREA WERE ALREADY IN PLACE, AND A MANAGEMENT CENTRE AT PAK TAM CHUNG WOULD BE COMPLETED A LITTLE LATER THIS YEAR.

GROUNDWORK FOR GAZETTING THE AREA IS IN HAND BUT IS COMPLEX BECAUSE THE LAND TENURE PROBLEMS HAS TO BE RESOLVED.

+ALSO CONTINUING OF COURSE IS THE PROCESS OF GRADUALLY DESIGNATING OTHER AREAS CURRENTLY MANAGED AS COUNTRY PARKS, PRINCIPALLY WESTWARDS FROM SHING MUN TOWARDS CASTLE PEAK AND IN THE VICINITY OF BRIDE'S POOL,+ HE SAID.

MR. NICHOLS SAID ALTHOUGH UP TO DATE ONLY THREE COUNTRY PARKS -- LION ROCK, KAM SHAN AND SHING MUN, TOTALLING SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NINE SQUARE MILES HAD BEEN GAZETTED NEARLY 100 SQUARE MILES OF COUNTRYSIDE WERE CURRENTLY BEING PROTECTED AND MANAGED AS SUCH.

HE EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE IT TOOK TIME TO PROCESS LAND ADMINISTRATIVELY AND LEGALLY FOR DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY PARKS, IT WAS INTENDED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH PROVIDING MORE AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT SERVICES BOTH IN NEW AREAS SUCH AS THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA, AND IN OLDER AREAS NOT YET WELL PROVIDED FOR, SUCH AS LANTAU ISLAND AND THE PAT SIN LING, IN ADVANCE OF DESIGNATION.

HE SAID: +WHILST IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE COUNTRY PARKS LEGALLY DESIGNATED, SO THAT ADDITIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION AND AUTHORITY CAN GOVERN THE USAGE, THERE IS ENOUGH ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO JUSTIFY PUSHING AHEAD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME, AND SO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF SCENIC AREAS WHICH ARE BEING USED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED FOR SUCH RECREATIONAL PURSUITS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNTRY PARK BY DEFINITION, AND AT LAW, SETS ASIDE SPECIFIC AREAS OF SCENIC LAND FOR PUBLIC USE BUT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE PUBLIC HAD COMPLETE AND UNRESTRICTED USE TO ALL LAND WITHIN THE PARK AREA.

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FORMAL ORGANISED RECREATIONAL PURSUITS SUCH AS ATHLETICS, FOOTBALL AND THE LIKE WERE EXCLUDED, HE EMPHASISED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT LAND WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PARK HAD TO BE ZONED SO THAT USE AND ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTED EACH OTHER AND DID NOT COMPETE OR ENDANGER THE RESOURCE EITHER AS A WHOLE OR IN PART.

+THUS WHILST PICNIC FACILITIES MAY BE SPREAD MORE LIBERALLY THROUGH THE PARK, BARBECUE AREAS HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY SITED TO ELIMINATE OR AT LEAST MINIMISE FIRE HAZARDS,+ HE SAID.

+NATURE TRAILS MUST BE SAFEGUARDED AGAINST OVERUSE DESTROYING THE NATURAL PHENOMENA BEING LOOKED AT. NATURE RESERVES MUST BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED IF THEY ARE TO FULFIL THEIR PRIME PURPOSE OF CONSERVING AN ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND EDUCATIVE PURPOSES.+

MR. NICHOLS POINTED OUT THAT MORE THAN TWO MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR VISITED THE AREAS MANAGED AS COUNTRY PARKS AND APART FROM OCCASIONALLY TRAMPLING THE VEGETATION INTO THE GROUND AND DESTROYING THE ODD TREE, EACH OF THE VISITORS CARRIED HALF A POUND OF POTENTIAL LITTER.

THIS GAVE RISE TO ONE OF THE MAJOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEM -- THE PHYSICAL REMOVAL OF ABOUT 500 TONS OF LITTER SCATTERED OVER NEARLY 100 SQUARE MILES OF COUNTRYSIDE, HE SAID.

FIRE WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR ADVERSE CHANGE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT AN AVERAGE OF 500 FIRES COULD BE EXPECTED IN A NORMAL FIRE SEASON BUT UNDER WORSE CONDITIONS THERE COULD BE MORE THAN 1,000 FIRES, OR THREE TO SIX FIRES EVERY DAY. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE VARIATION AND UP TO 100 FIRES HAD BEEN EXPERIENCED IN ONE DAY, HE INDICATED.

MR. NICHOLS POINTED OUT THAT OVER HALF OF HONG KONG'S POPULATION WERE LESS THAN 25 YEARS OF AGE AND ALMOST TWO MILLION PEOPLE LIVED IN SOME 50 SQUARE MILES OF URBAN SETTLEMENT.

+SOME 70 PER CENT OF OUR LAND,+ HE WENT ON, +WAS STILL COUNTRYSIDE AND MUCH OF THIS WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN SO BECAUSE WE COLLECTED MOST OF OUR WATER SUPPLIES FROM 40 PER CENT OF OUR LAND.+

+WITH THE PROVISION OF PROPER FACILITIES OUR PEOPLE HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEVELOP PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE AND MORE COMPLETE INDIVIDUALS,+ HE SAID.

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CENSUS OF WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING A COMPREHENSIVE CENSUS OF THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, AS WELL AS RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

THE CENSUS, SCHEDULED FOR 1978 IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1977, IS PART OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME TO COLLECT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC STATISTICS COVERING ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES SO AS TO PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMY AND THE SECTORAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT, OUTPUT AND INCOME IN HONG KONG. THE FIRST CENSUS IN THIS PROGRAMME WAS THE ONE ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CARRIED OUT IN 1973.

THE FORTHCOMING CENSUS WILL COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR COST, SALES AND RECEIPTS, PURCHASES, OPERATING COSTS, STOCKS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

THERE ARE ABOUT 56,000 IMPORT AND EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, 3,500 RESTAURANTS AND 800 HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES EMPLOYING A TOTAL OF 366,000 PEOPLE. IN 1971 THIS SECTOR EMPLOYED 254,000 PEOPLE ACCOUNTING FOR 16 PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THIS SECTOR TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 22.3 PER CENT OR \$6,919 MILLION IN 1973.

DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS IS TO SEEK VIEWS ON THE SUITABILITY OF QUESTIONNAIRES TO BE USED FOR THE CENSUS.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT BEFORE BEING APPROACHED FOR CONSULTATION TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE ADVISED IN ADVANCE BY LETTER. EXPERIENCED STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL THEN VISIT THE SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS.

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BAD WEATHER AFFECTS SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO U.S. EAST COAST
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SOME SPEEDPOST CONSIGNMENTS TO AND FROM THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO THE VERY SEVERE WINTER CONDITIONS THERE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL SAID HEAVY SNOW STORMS AND SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES HAD CLOSED OFF AIRPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME.

+SOME FIRMS HAVE TEMPORARILY CLOSED DOWN WHILST THESE ABNORMAL CONDITIONS CONTINUE,+ HE SAID.

THE STATES MOST AFFECTED ARE PENNSYLVANIA, UPSTATE NEW YORK, OHIO AND VIRGINIA.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ALL PARKING IN THE VICINITY OF CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 A.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 18).

THE AFFECTED PLACES ARE:

- * THE UNNAMED ROAD LEADING NORTH FROM TONKIN STREET AND BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE AND CHEUNG SHA WAN POLICE MARRIED QUARTERS, AND
- * FAT TSEUNG STREET BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

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