



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1991

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HAMISH MACLEOD ON SECOND ROUND OF EXPERT TALKS

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MR HAMISH MACLEOD, LEADER OF THE HONG KONG GROUP WHICH TRAVELLED TO PEKING FOR TALKS ON THE NEW AIRPORT, SPOKE TO REPORTERS ON THE GROUP'S RETURN TO THE TERRITORY TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE SAID: "I OUTLINED TO YOU YESTERDAY THE MAIN POINTS WHICH OUR SIDE MADE DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF EXPERT TALKS ON THE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AGREED THAT DISCUSSIONS HOULD CONTINUE THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS.

"I HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF REPORTS ON THE TALKS THIS MORNING, NOT ALL OF THEM ACCURATE. SO LET ME MAKE CLEAR TWO THINGS:

"OUT REACTION TO THE POINTS PUT TO US BY THE CHINESE SIDE WAS AS I DESCRIBED YESTERDAY - NO MORE, NO LESS.

"SECONDLY, AS THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG WITH CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG UP UNTIL 1997, WE SEE IT AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR TASK TO BE WORKING AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE LONG-TERM PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG; AND PART OF THAT IS TO GET ON WITH BUILDING KEY TRANSPORT LINKS SUCH AS A MODERN AIRPORT IN GOOD TIME. THIS IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY."

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF QUARTERLY SURVEY  
OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990, ESTIMATED AT \$8,836 MILLION, WAS 10 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1989, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 3 PER CENT LOWER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 WAS \$3,478 MILLION, WHICH WAS 5 PER CENT HIGHER IN VALUE TERMS THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR BARS, FAST FOOD SHOPS, NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND CHINESE RESTAURANTS WENT UP BY 17 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT, 10 PER CENT AND 9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989, WHILE THAT FOR "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" - COMPRISING HERB TEA SHOPS, CREAMERIES AND OTHER OUTLETS SELLING BEANCURD JELLY, AND SO ON REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED.

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/THE TOTAL .....

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BOTH CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT, AND THAT OF "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" FELL BY 8 PER CENT.

COMPARING THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME; AND THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS, INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR BARS, FAST FOOD SHOPS, NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", AT 21 PER CENT, 19 PER CENT, 17 PER CENT, 10 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IN VOLUME TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS, FAST FOOD SHOPS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS GREW BY 13 PER CENT, 5 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY; WHILE THOSE OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT AND 8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER - AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS - TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS WENT UP BY 7 PER CENT, THOSE OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS, BARS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" RECORDED THE SAME INCREASES OF 5 PER CENT, AND THAT OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT.

IN VOLUME TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BOTH FAST FOOD SHOPS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT, AND THOSE OF BARS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS WENT UP BY 3 PER CENT, 2 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE SECOND AND THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990 AND FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989. COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 802 1258).

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

	2nd qtr. 1990 (Revised figures)	3rd qtr. 1990 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts (in HK\$ million)	8 418	8 836
Total purchases by restaurants (in HK\$ million)	3 311	3 478

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 2ND QUARTER 1990 AND 3RD QUARTER 1990

(Quarterly average of October 84 - September 85 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	2nd	3rd	3rd qtr. 1990 compared with 2nd qtr. 1990		3rd qtr. 1990 compared with 3rd qtr. 1989		1st-3rd qtr. 1990 compared with 1st-3rd qtr. 1989	
		quarter 1990 (Revised figures)	quarter 1990 (Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	172	181	+9	+5	+15	+9	+16	+10
	Volume	108	110	+2	+2	-5	-4	-6	-5
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	195	201	+6	+3	+18	+10	+29	+17
	Volume	124	125	+1	+1	-5	-4	+3	+2
Fast food shops	Value	252	269	+17	+7	+31	+13	+40	+19
	Volume	174	180	+6	+4	+1	+1	+8	+5
Bars	Value	151	159	+8	+5	+23	+17	+27	+21
	Volume	118	121	+3	+3	+11	+10	+14	+13
Other eating and drinking places	Value	161	169	+8	+5	+1	*	+2	+2
	Volume	108	112	+4	+4	-10	-8	-9	-8
Entire restaurant sector	Value	181	190	+9	+5	+17	+10	+20	+12
	Volume	116	118	+2	+2	-4	-3	-3	-2

Notes: 1. Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.  
2. \* denotes a figure within  $\pm 0.5$ .

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1990 WARMER AND DRIER ON AVERAGE

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IN 1990, SIX OF THE 13 TROPICAL CYCLONES WHICH OCCURRED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA REQUIRED THE HOISTING OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS IN HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, NONE OF THEM NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE GALE OR STORM SIGNAL, ACCORDING TO THE WEATHER REPORT FOR 1990 ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SUNDAY).

WITH AUGUST 1990 THE HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD AND AUGUST 18, 1990 THE HOTTEST DAY EVER EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG, THE YEAR'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 23.1 DEGREES WAS 0.3 DEGREE HIGHER THAN THE NORMAL FIGURE.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL IN 1990 WAS 2,046.9 MILLIMETRES, EIGHT PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 2,224.7 MILLIMETRES.

JANUARY 1990 WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY, HUMID AND WET. THERE WERE ONLY SEVEN DAYS IN THE MONTH WITH NO RAIN RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO 47.5 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS 77 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

FEBRUARY WAS EVEN WETTER AND MORE HUMID. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 195.7 MILLIMETRES WAS MORE THAN FOUR-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE NORMAL. AN INTENSE SURGE TOWARDS THE END OF JANUARY REACHED ITS CLIMAX ON FEBRUARY 1 AND BROUGHT TEMPERATURES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DOWN TO SEVEN DEGREES.

THE WEATHER IN MARCH TURNED DRIER AND BRIGHTER. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 29.9 MILLIMETRES WAS 45 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL.

APART FROM THE LAST 10 DAYS OF THE MONTH, THE DAILY MEAN PRESSURE STAYED CONSISTENTLY ON THE HIGH SIDE AS A CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONE PREVAILED OVER CHINA. AS A RESULT, THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,018.2 HECTOPASCALS WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH.

APRIL WAS GLOOMY AND WET. ONLY 73.8 HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE WERE RECORDED FOR THE WHOLE MONTH. THIS WAS THE 10TH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR APRIL.

THERE WAS ONLY THREE DAYS IN THE MONTH WHEN NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 257.6 MILLIMETRES WHICH WAS 85 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 11, GUSTS OF UP TO 135 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE RECORDED AT WAGLAN ISLAND IN SEVERE SQUALLS ACCOMPANYING HEAVY DOWNPOUR. THIS WAS THE STRONGEST GUST EVER RECORDED AT THAT STATION IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.

MAY WAS RELATIVELY DRY WITH A MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 102.4 MILLIMETRES WHICH WAS JUST OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE NORMAL.

/TROPICAL CYCLONE .....

TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS WERE HOISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR ON MAY 17 FOR TYPHOON MARIAN, BUT MARIAN FAILED TO COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT RAIN TO THE TERRITORY.

IN JUNE, TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS WERE HOISTED DURING THE PASSAGE OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM NATHAN AND TYPHOON PERCY BUT THE MONTHLY RAINFALL TOTAL OF 448.1 MILLIMETRES WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL.

ON JUNE 30, AN UNSTABLE SOUTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM IN THE WAKE OF PERCY BROUGHT ABOUT PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS, RESULTING IN THREE INCIDENTS OF LANDSLIPS AND OVER 30 REPORTS OF FLOODING IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

JULY WAS HOTTER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL. THE WEATHER WAS BASICALLY FINE EXCEPT FOR SHOWERS AND PERIODS OF RAIN BROUGHT BY AN UNSTABLE SOUTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM IN MID-JULY AND BY SEVERE TROPICAL STORM TASHA WHICH NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL TOTAL WAS 268 MILLIMETRES, 15 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 316.8 MILLIMETRES.

AUGUST 1990 WAS THE HOTTEST MONTH AND THE DRIEST AUGUST EVER EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.5 DEGREES AND THE MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.4 DEGREES WERE THE HIGHEST ON RECORD, WHILE THE MONTHLY MEAN MAXIMUM OF 32.1 DEGREES WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR AUGUST.

WITH A DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 31.9 DEGREES AND A DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 30.1 DEGREES, AUGUST 18 WAS THE HOTTEST DAY ON RECORD. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 36.1 DEGREES ON THAT DAY EQUALLED THE ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM SET 90 YEARS AGO.

ITS MONTHLY MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 75 PER CENT WAS ALSO THE LOWEST FOR AUGUST. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 150.1 MILLIMETRES WAS 64 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL.

SEPTEMBER WAS RELATIVELY CLOUDY AND WET. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 409.9 MILLIMETRES WAS 28 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL. OVER HALF OF THE MONTH'S RAINFALL COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON DOT OVER SOUTHERN CHINA.

DURING THE FIVE-DAY PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 8 TO 12, 230 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND TRIGGERED OFF FLOODING AND LANDSLIP OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

OCTOBER WAS SUNNIER THAN NORMAL. THE MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE OF 1,015.7 HECTOPASCALS WAS THE SEVENTH HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 100.7 MILLIMETRES WAS 17 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL.

NOVEMBER WAS ON THE WHOLE WINDY AND RELATIVELY CLOUDY. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS. HOWEVER, IT WAS STILL COMPARATIVELY WARM WITH A MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 20.4 DEGREES, THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 36.9 MILLIMETRES WAS SIX PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 34.7 MILLIMETRES.

DECEMBER WAS WARMER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 18.8 DEGREES WAS 1.1 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL, WHILE THE TOTAL DURATION OF SUNSHINE, 218.7 HOURS, WAS 22 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 179.3 HOURS. ONLY 0.1 MILLIMETRE OF RAIN WAS RECORDED DURING THE WHOLE MONTH.

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REMINDER TO PROSPECTIVE DB ELECTION CANDIDATES

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PEOPLE INTENDING TO STAND FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 3 ARE REMINDED THAT NOMINATION WILL CLOSE ON JANUARY 21.

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 237 CANDIDATES HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR NOMINATIONS. OF THIS NUMBER, 139 ARE INCUMBENT DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

ISSUING THE REMINDER TODAY (SUNDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID IT WAS ADVISABLE FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES TO HAND IN THE NOMINATION FORMS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

"THIS WILL ENSURE THAT ANY ANOMALY IN THE FORMS CAN BE RECTIFIED BEFORE THE NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS BY THE CLOSE OF PLAY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED THE CANDIDATES AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES THAT THE DISPLAY OF ELECTION BANNERS AND POSTERS ON CROWN LAND AND GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES IS PROHIBITED DURING THE NOMINATION PERIOD.

AFTER THE CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS, CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETINGS CONVENED BY DISTRICT OFFICERS ON THE ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR SPOTS FOR THE DISPLAY OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS.

HOWEVER, CANDIDATES IN THE MEANTIME CAN ORGANISE ELECTION FORUMS, DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS, CONDUCT HOME VISITS AND TAKE PART IN CURRENT AFFAIRS AND OTHER PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION AND RADIO.

"THEY CAN ALSO PUT UP PUBLICITY MATERIALS AT PRIVATE BUILDINGS PROVIDED THEY HAVE OBTAINED THE PERMISSION OF THE OWNER/OCCUPIER," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT ALL THESE GUIDELINES ARE DETAILED IN A MANUAL FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES. GUIDANCE NOTES ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO CANDIDATES AFTER THEY HAVE HANDED IN THEIR NOMINATION PAPERS.

BRIEFING SESSIONS WILL ALSO BE ARRANGED FOR CANDIDATES AFTER THE CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS.

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MAJOR INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND  
DISASTER SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR POLICE FORCE  
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A SPECIALLY SELECTED GROUP OF NINE POLICE OFFICERS HAS RETURNED TO HONG KONG FROM AN INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE CENTRALISED COMPUTERISATION OF THE INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS CRIMES.

THE FORCE IS NOW READINGY FOR THE INTRODUCTION SOON OF THE NEW MAJOR INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND DISASTER SUPPORT SYSTEM (MIIDSS) AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND HAS THE OFFICERS TO USE IT AND TRAIN OTHERS.

THE STAFF OFFICER, CRIME, ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT, IN THE ORGANISED AND SERIOUS CRIME GROUP, SAID: "THE COURSE NOT ONLY MET BUT EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS.

"AS AN INVESTIGATIVE TOOL, THE SYSTEM HAS NUMEROUS SEARCHING FUNCTIONS WHICH ENABLE A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO BE CROSS-INDEXED, TO PERSONS, VEHICLES, ADDRESSES AND OTHER DATA.

"IT PUTS TOGETHER IN MANAGEABLE FORMAT A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ON ANY NUMBER OF TOPICS AND INDICES."

MR RICHMOND SAID THE NEW SYSTEM COULD BE INTRODUCED WITH RESOURCES ALREADY AVAILABLE AT ARSENAL HOUSE.

"WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. NOW WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE TRAINING OF OTHER OFFICERS WHO WILL USE IT. WE HAVE A MARVELLOUS FACILITY AT ARSENAL HOUSE WHICH IN THE VIEW OF ALL WHO ATTENDED THE COURSE WILL ADEQUATELY FULFIL ALL REQUIREMENTS."

A STEERING COMMITTEE AND VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND TRAINING.

THE COURSE, ON THE USE OF HOME OFFICE LARGE MAJOR ENQUIRY SYSTEM (HOLMES), WAS HELD EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE HONG KONG OFFICERS AT THAMES VALLEY POLICE TRAINING CENTRE, NEAR READING, SOUTH ENGLAND.

AN EMPHASIS ON THE COMPUTERISED INVESTIGATION SYSTEM IS FOR THE STANDARDISATION OF DATA INPUT SO THAT LARGE SCALE ENQUIRIES INVOLVING MORE THAN ONE POLICE FORCE CAN HAVE ACCESS IN INTERFORCE CASES.

"TO ENABLE VARIOUS DATA BASES TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER, THERE MUST BE A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFORMITY OF DATA INPUT," MR RICHMOND SAID.

SERIAL CRIMES OR INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING LARGE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS AND LOCATIONS CAN BE EFFECTIVELY HANDLED, REDUCING MANPOWER AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

THE MIIDSS SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED HOW A LARGE SCALE VEHICLE CRIME SYNDICATE INVOLVING OVER A HUNDRED POTENTIAL SUSPECTS OPERATING IN A LARGE AREA COULD BE QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY INVESTIGATED.

/IT COULD .....

IT COULD ALSO BE USED IN THE HUNDREDS OF DETAILED INQUIRIES REQUIRED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF MAJOR DISASTERS, SUCH AS THE LOCKERBIE AIR CRASH.

"A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE APPLICATION OF THE SYSTEM TO HONG KONG," MR RICHMOND SAID, "HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO EXTEND IT TO COVER DAY TO DAY WORK BY CRIME FORMATIONS AND IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO THAT ADOPTED IN THE UK.

"IT IS HOPED THAT WE ACHIEVE THE SAME DEGREE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN VARIOUS USER FORMATIONS.

"WE HAVE SEEN THE VALUE AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE DATA BASE TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE IN LESS SENSATIONAL CASES IN DAY TO DAY INVESTIGATIONS RATHER THAN HAVE THE SYSTEM LIE DORMANT WAITING FOR A MAJOR INCIDENT TO OCCUR.

"THAT IS HOW THE SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED IN THE UK, WHERE IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED AND USED BY SENIOR OFFICERS. THE INTERNATIONAL CAPABILITY OF THE SYSTEM IS ALSO EXPANDING."

MR RICHMOND SAID IT WAS INTENDED TO FORM A CORE GROUP OF OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONGOING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN THE USE OF THE NEW SYSTEM. THESE OFFICERS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST INVESTIGATING OFFICERS WITH THE INITIAL APPLICATION OF THE SYSTEM AND THEREAFTER MONITOR AND MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE DATA BASE.

"IT COULD ALSO BE ADAPTED TO COVER DATA UNIQUE TO HONG KONG REQUIREMENTS.

"WE HAVE TO INDEX ADDRESSES WHICH ARE QUITE DIFFERENT HERE. FOR EXAMPLE THEY DON'T HAVE NUMBERED WOODEN HUTS IN THE UK. WITH VERY LITTLE ADAPTATION WE CAN COMPENSATE FOR QUITE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. THE SYSTEM IS EXTREMELY ADAPTABLE."

ALL NINE OFFICERS PASSED A FIVE HOUR EXAMINATION AT THE END OF THE COURSE, WITH ONE OFFICER, SENIOR INSPECTOR STEPHEN LO OF KOWLOON EAST REGIONAL CRIME UNIT, ACHIEVING AN "A" RATING, MEANING THAT HE PRODUCED AN ENTIRELY EXCEPTIONAL PAPER.

"IT WAS A VERY PROFESSIONAL COURSE, CONDUCTED BY SPECIAL LECTURERS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL HAVE TO MODIFY SOME OF THE THINGS WE LEARNED TO HONG KONG REQUIREMENTS." MR LO SAID.

CHIEF INSPECTOR ALAN CHAN OF DETECTIVE TRAINING SCHOOL SAID THE COURSE, USUALLY OF FIVE WEEKS' DURATION, HAD BEEN CONDENSED TO FOUR FOR THE HONG KONG PARTICIPANTS.

"IT WAS A GRUELLING 10 HOUR DAY FOR US AND IT WAS VERY HARSH STUDY. IT WAS THE FIRST COURSE OF ITS KIND TO BE TAILOR MADE FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS."

THE OFFICERS WILL SOON EMBARK ON LOCAL TRAINING IN THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF SYSTEMS.

THE OTHER SIX OFFICERS ARE MESSRS PETER PANNU, WILLIAM LEE, FRANCIS LAI, ALAN SIN, TED AITKEN-DAVIES AND DAVE LOVELESS.

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IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES RECOGNISED

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY IS AN INDISPENSIBLE PART OF A BALANCED CURRICULUM THROUGH WHICH STUDENTS CAN DEVELOP THEIR INTEREST AND POTENTIAL AND IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RELATIONS.

ADDRESSING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CARNIVAL AT VICTORIA PARK TODAY (SUNDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID SINCE MID-1970S, THE MEANING AND VALUE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BEGAN TO GAIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS IN MANY ASPECTS.

"BETWEEN 1982 AND 1986, FIVE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS WERE PROVIDED TO EACH STANDARD SECONDARY SCHOOL TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR STUDENTS, ONE OF WHICH WAS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES," MR LI SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT SET UP A SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SECTION IN APRIL 1989 TO CO-ORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

SIXTY-FIVE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUPS TOOK PART IN TODAY'S CARNIVAL WHICH AIMED AT ENCOURAGING STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN AND PROMOTING THE POSITIVE VALUE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

MR LI THANKED THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 FOR SPONSORING THE CARNIVAL.

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WATER CUT IN SHEUNG WAN

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SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 15) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED BY THE SUSPENSION ARE NOS. 127-133 HOLLYWOOD ROAD (ODD NUMBERS), NOS. 76-130 HOLLYWOOD ROAD (EVEN NUMBERS), NOS. 1-2 TSUI ON LANE, NOS. 270-290 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL (EVEN NUMBERS).

IT WILL ALSO AFFECT THE SECTION OF LADDER STREET BETWEEN HOLLYWOOD ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, CIRCULAR PATH, AND THE SECTION OF SHING WONG STREET BETWEEN GOUGH STREET AND HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

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