



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1976

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ADDICTS SPEND \$550 MILLION ON HEROIN ANNUALLY

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HONG KONG'S DRUG ADDICTS ARE SPENDING ABOUT \$550 MILLION A YEAR ON HEROIN, MANY OF THEM ARE IN THE WORKING CLASS AND STARTED TAKING DRUGS WHEN ONLY 15 YEARS OLD.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE FINDINGS THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM A RECENT STUDY MADE BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON SOME 550 ADDICTS WHO ATTEND THE HIGH STREET METHADONE MAINTENANCE CENTRE.

ELABORATING ON THE FINDINGS AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LION'S CLUB OF LION ROCK TODAY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NARCOTICS), DR. K.F. CHAN, SAID AN ADDICT SPENT AN AVERAGE OF \$30 A DAY TO MAINTAIN THEIR HABIT.

ASSUMING THAT THERE WERE ONLY 50,000 ADDICTS IN HONG KONG, HE CONTINUED, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT WOULD TOTAL NEARLY \$550 MILLION A YEAR WHICH +IS VERY NEARLY THE BUDGET FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE COST TO THE SOCIETY CAUSED BY DRUG ADDICTION WAS INCALCULABLE, WITH LARGE SUMS OF PUBLIC MONEY BEING SPENT ON ENFORCING THE LAW AND ON TREATING THE ADDICTS.

DR. CHAN SAID IT WAS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE 550 ADDICTS INVOLVED IN THE STUDY STARTED TO TAKE DRUGS BETWEEN 15 AND 19 YEARS OF AGE.

THE REASONS THE ADDICTS GAVE FOR TAKING DRUGS INCLUDE: FUN, SEX, GROUP ACCEPTANCE, FATIGUE AND FRUSTRATION.

+TO ELABORATE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THESE PEOPLE TOOK DRUGS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO TRY DRUGS FOR FUN, THEY THOUGHT DRUGS WOULD IMPROVE THEIR SEXUAL PROWESS, THEY GOT MIXED UP WITH BAD COMPANY, THEY TRIED TO GET RELIEF FROM PAIN OR OTHER COMPLAINTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ILLNESS, THEY WANTED TO OVERCOME FATIGUE OR BOOST THEMSELVES UP TO DO SOME MORE WORK, AND THEY SOUGHT SOLACE FROM SOME FORM OF FRUSTRATION SUCH AS FAMILY AND MARITAL TROUBLE,+ DR. CHAN SAID.

ANOTHER FINDING WAS THAT MOST OF THE ADDICTS WERE WORKING AS LABOURERS, HAWKERS, FACTORY WORKERS, TAILORS, WAITERS AND DRIVERS. SOME NINE PER CENT OF THEM COULD BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO DRUG ADDICTION AS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD BECAUSE THEY WORKED IN PLACES SUCH AS ILLEGAL DIVANS AND GAMBLING HOUSES.

WITH SUCH A LARGE ADDICT POPULATION AS IN HONG KONG, SAID DR. CHAN, A-MULTIPLICITY OF CHOICE OF TREATMENT METHODS AND PROGRAMMES WAS REQUIRED.

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+DIFFERENT TYPES OF ADDICTS REQUIRE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TREATMENT AND NO ONE METHOD IS UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT SUCCESS OF ANY TREATMENT PROGRAMME FOR DRUG ADDICTS COULD NOT BE MEASURED BY SO-CALLED +CURE RATE+ ALONE, BECAUSE THE WORD +CURE+ WAS TOO RESTRICTIVE AND UNREALISTIC FOR ASSESSING THE RESULTS.

ALL PROGRAMMES, HE EXPLAINED, SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR AS LONG AS THEY WERE IN DEMAND, AND SUCCESS WAS MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS ATTENDING RATHER THAN THE NUMBER CURED.

SIMILARLY, HE CONTINUED, A HIGH RELAPSE RATE DID NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE FAILURE OF THE PROGRAMME.

+THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT SHOULD AN ADDICT ASK FOR A SECOND OR EVEN A THIRD OR FOURTH CHANCE, HE WILL BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE READILY,+ HE ADDED.

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SIX OUT-PATIENT CLINICS REMAIN OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS

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SIX OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE CLINICS WILL OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON THREE DAYS BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 25.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN SHAU KEI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND= TWO JOCKEY CLUB CLINICS AT KWUN TONG AND YAU MA TEI AND THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE IN KOWLOON= AND THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT APART FROM THE SIX CLINICS, ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

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LEGCO MEETS TOMORROW

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THE SUBJECT OF REASSESSMENT OF RATEABLE VALUE OF PROPERTIES WILL BE RAISED BY THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AT TOMORROW'S SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DR. S.Y. CHUNG WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF REASSESSMENT FOR RATEPAYERS AND DR. HARRY FANG WILL ENQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS TO CUSHION THE EFFECT OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN RATES NEXT YEAR ON PROPERTIES OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING UNSUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WILL ASK FOR THE NUMBER OF PREMISES WHICH WILL, AS A RESULT OF NEW RATING VALUATIONS, NO LONGER COME UNDER THE SECTION OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WHICH CONTROLS RENT INCREASES IN POST-WAR DOMESTIC PREMISES WITH A RATEABLE VALUE OF NOT MORE THAN \$30,000.

MR. JAMES WU WILL ALSO ASK WHY SOME LANDLORDS ARE CHARGED PROPERTY TAX ON THE BASIS OF ASSESSABLE VALUE WHICH THEY CANNOT RECEIVE UNDER PRESENT RENT-CONTROL LEGISLATION.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE 13 OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS INCLUDE A PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW HONG KONG TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FROM THOSE HOLDERS CONVICTED ABROAD OF DRUG OR OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES= PROGRESS OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH TO LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS= MEANS OF MANNING THE CIVIL SERVICE OTHER THAN BY SECONDMENT= PROGRESS ON FURTHER ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS, AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR CLERICAL STAFF IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GIVE MORE THOROUGH AND HELPFUL ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THREE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED TOMORROW: THE INLAND REVENUE BOARDS OF REVIEW (VALIDATION) BILL 1976, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

NINE BILLS WILL HAVE THEIR THIRD READING, INCLUDING THE COMMODITIES TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976 AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG BILL 1976.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON A MOTION BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, TO APPROVE THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) REGULATIONS 1976 WHICH SEEKS TO REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY ABOLISH OVERTIME FOR YOUNG WORKERS.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WILL MOVE THE ADOPTION OF REVISED FARES FOR HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY SERVICES TO OUTLYING DISTRICTS FROM JANUARY 1, 1977 AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL MOVE CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE COUNCIL.

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR AREAS OUTSIDE NEW TOWNS

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AN AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS ABOUT TO START IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO PROVIDE BETTER HOMES AND FACILITIES FOR SOME 350,000 PEOPLE IN THE RURAL AREAS OUTSIDE THE NEW TOWNS AT SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNERS HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST SET OF BLUEPRINTS FOR THE SCHEME AND WORK ON THE FIRST SITE FORMATION CONTRACT IS DUE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WHICH COVERS 12 RURAL AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, PROVIDES FOR A SERIES OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE FOUR MARKET TOWNS AT TAI PO, SHEK WU HUI, FANLING AND YUEN LONG, AND EIGHT RURAL TOWNSHIPS AT SAI KUNG (TUI MIN HOI), MUI WO, CHEUNG CHAU, TAI O, PENG CHAU, LAU FAU SHAN, TAN KWAI TSUEN AND SHAM TSENG.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES, COMMISSIONED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, FOR THESE AREAS WERE SUBMITTED RECENTLY BY THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND DETAILED DESIGN FOR MUCH OF THE REQUIRED ENGINEERING AND BUILDING WORKS BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICES, INCLUDING THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, ARE EITHER IN HAND OR UNDERWAY.

THE PROGRAMME IS BEING CO-ORDINATED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE P.W.D.'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. THIS BRANCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT WORK ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE FOUR MARKET TOWNS AND EIGHT RURAL TOWNSHIPS.

MR. KENNETH KWOK, GOVERNMENT ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES) OF THE N.T.D.D., SAID TODAY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW MARKET TOWNS WAS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO THE NEW TOWNS, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE.

+AS IN THE NEW TOWNS, THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WITH ALL BASIC FACILITIES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS. APART FROM HOUSING, THESE WILL INCLUDE SCHOOLS, CLINICS, COMMUNITY HALLS, SHOPPING CENTRES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS. IN ADDITION, SITES WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID FUNDS AMOUNTING TO SOME \$371 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME FOR VARIOUS ENGINEERING PROJECTS IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

INITIALLY DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONCENTRATE AT TAI PO, SHEK WU HUI, FANLING, YUEN LONG, SAI KUNG, MUI WO, CHEUNG CHAU AND TAI O.

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+THE FIRST CONTRACT IN THE PROGRAMME, INVOLVING THE RECLAMATION OF SOME 27 HECTARES OF LAND IN TOLO HARBOUR, TAI PO, WILL BE SIGNED IN A FEW DAYS' TIME AND WORK WILL BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.

+THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE USED TO BUILD A LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR SOME 30,000 PEOPLE TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

+FURTHER LAND WILL BE FORMED FOR PRIVATE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE RECLAMATION WORKS WOULD TAKE ABOUT 26 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, BUT MR. KWOK ENVISAGED THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY JULY NEXT YEAR TO ENABLE PILING WORK FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TO COMMENCE.

HE SAID BUILDING WORKS FOR THE ESTATE WERE SCHEDULED TO START IN EARLY 1978, AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE FIRST TENANTS WOULD BE MOVING INTO THEIR NEW HOMES BY THE LATTER PART OF 1979.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS WERE ABOUT TO BE INVITED FOR THE SITE FORMATION, RECLAMATION, ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN THE SAI KUNG (TUI MIN HOI) AREA.

+WORKS AT SAI KUNG (TUI MIN HOI) ARE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WILL MAINLY INVOLVE SITE FORMATION OF 5.8 HECTARES, A RECLAMATION OF 3.7 HECTARES AT SAI KUNG TUK AND ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING WORKS,+ SAID MR. KWOK.

+THE COMPLETED SITE FORMATION WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND A HOUSING SCHEME FOR FISHERMEN DISPLACED BY THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME -- A TOTAL OF SOME 2,800 PEOPLE.

+ABOUT FOUR HECTARES OF THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT USE, INCLUDING A FIRE STATION,+ HE SAID.

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT WOULD TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR. KWOK ADDED THAT HIS BRANCH WOULD BE CALLING A SERIES OF TENDERS FOR OTHER CONTRACTS OVER THE NEXT SEVEN MONTHS, MAINLY FOR SITE FORMATION AND ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

AT SHEK WU HUI, TENDERS WERE EXPECTED TO BE CALLED IN THE LATTER HALF OF NEXT YEAR FOR THE FORMATION OF SOME 21 HECTARES OF LAND FOR VARIOUS USES, INCLUDING A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR 5,000.

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ALSO INCLUDED IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE SHEK WU HUI DEVELOPMENT WAS THE WIDENING OF JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD FROM THE WO HOP SHEK RAILWAY CROSSING TO THE EXISTING SHEK WU HUI TOWN.

THE FORMATION OF 14 HECTARES AT FANLING HAD ALSO BEEN PLANNED AND WORK THERE WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON, SAID MR. KWOK. +INITIAL DEVELOPMENT HERE WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR 12,000 TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY FACILITIES.+

FOR YUEN LONG, HE SAID, PLANS WERE IN HAND FOR A SMALLER ESTATE FOR 5,000 PEOPLE.

+AT MUI WO, INITIAL DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF FORMING SOME 10 HECTARES OF LAND NEAR THE FERRY CONCOURSE FOR AN ESTATE TO HOUSE 800 PEOPLE AND THE BUILDING OF A NEW FERRY PIER.+

MR. KWOK SAID HIS BRANCH WOULD ALSO BE INVITING TENDERS SOON FOR SITE FORMATION WORKS AT TAI O ON LANTAU ISLAND WHERE ANOTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE WOULD BE BUILT FOR 3,000 PEOPLE. THE BUILDING WORKS WERE DUE TO START IN MID-1977.

HE SAID THAT AT CHEUNG CHAU, SOME NINE HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE FORMED FOR THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN THAT AREA.

+THESE COMPRISE AN ESTATE WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR 1,200 PEOPLE AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND INTERCEPTING SEWERS TO SERVE THE NEW TOWNSHIP,+ HE SAID.

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REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES CLOSE DURING HOLIDAYS
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THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION SAID THAT THE HEAD OFFICE, BRANCH OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE CLOSED FOR BUSINESS FROM 1 P.M. ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 24) TO 8.45 A.M. ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 28).

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CHRISTMAS DUTY-FREE BRANDY
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ANNOUNCES THAT PASSENGERS, ARRIVING FROM MACAU DURING THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS DAY (DECEMBER 26 AND 27, 1976), MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 1 LITRE.

THIS IS IN LIEU OF THE CUSTOMARY ONE-QUART OF GRAPE WINE AT PRESENT ALLOWED.

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CLEARANCE OF SHEK KU LUNG ROAD TENEMENT BUILDINGS
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SOME 100 OUT OF A TOTAL NUMBER OF 111 FAMILIES LIVING IN SEVEN TENEMENT BUILDINGS IN SHEK KU LUNG, KOWLOON CITY, HAVE ALREADY MOVED TO THEIR NEW HOMES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WHEN CLEARANCE OF THE BUILDINGS STARTED THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE BUILDINGS, SITUATED AT NO. 52-64, SHEK KU LUNG ROAD HAD BEEN RESUMED AND REVERTED BACK TO GOVERNMENT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 300-FOOT RAMP AND A FLYOVER TO PROVIDE DIRECT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE DEPARTURE HALL LEVEL OF KAI TAK AIRPORT FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT STUDIES INDICATED THAT TRAFFIC ON OLYMPIC AVENUE, THE AIRPORT'S ONLY ACCESS ROAD WOULD REACH SATURATION POINT BY ABOUT 1979-80 WITH THE INCREASING NUMBER OF TOURISTS COMING TO VISIT HONG KONG.

+ONCE THIS HAPPENS,+ HE SAID, +THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE SERIOUS DELAYS AT THE AIRPORT FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING AIR PASSENGERS.+

THE FLYOVER FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO THE TERMINAL BUILDING WILL PROVIDE A FAST ONE-WAY ROAD AND WILL TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF OLYMPIC AVENUE.

ON TOP OF PUBLIC HOUSING, THE DOMESTIC TENANTS AFFECTED HAVE ALSO BEEN PROVIDED WITH CASH ASSISTANCE.

TEN OF THE 12 FACTORY OPERATORS IN THE TENEMENT BUILDINGS ELIGIBLE FOR REPROVISIONING HAVE BEEN OFFERED FLATTED FACTORY SITES IN KOWLOON BAY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CASH COMPENSATION.

THE OTHER TWO FACTORY OPERATORS WHOSE TRADES ARE NOT SUITABLE TO BE OPERATED AT FLATTED FACTORIES ARE OFFERED CASH COMPENSATION.

FOR SQUATTERS, THOSE REGISTERED IN THE 1964 SURVEY HAVE BEEN OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING WHILE THOSE WHO ARE NOT HAVE BEEN OFFERED RESITE AREAS.

THE CLEARANCE IS BEING CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY AND IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE LATER TODAY.

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PUBLIC URGED TO TAKE EXTRA FIRE PRECAUTIONS

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A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA FIRE PRECAUTIONS DURING CHRISTMAS WHICH IS ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY.

+BY TAKING THAT LITTLE EXTRA CARE, YOU COULD MAKE YOUR HOME FREE OF THE RISK OF FIRE,+ HE SAID.

CHRISTMAS TREES, DECORATED WITH COLOURED LIGHTS AND GIFT PACKAGES, OFTEN ADD TO FIRE HAZARDS IN THE HOME, HE POINTED OUT.

HE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO USE NON-COMBUSTIBLE DECORATING MATERIALS, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO REDUCE FIRE RISK.

+CHECK ALL TREE LIGHTING SETS, ELECTRIC CANDLES AND SIMILAR LIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS EXTENSION CORDS FOR FRAYED WIRES, LOOSE CONNECTIONS AND BROKEN SOCKETS,+ HE URGED. +FURTHERMORE, ALL ILLUMINATIONS SHOULD BE SWITCHED OFF BEFORE GOING OUT OR TO BED.+

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THOSE WHO WERE GOING TO THROW PARTIES AT HOME TO PROVIDE PLENTY OF LARGE AND SAFE ASHTRAYS.

IN HOMES, HE EMPHASISED, A COMBINATION OF ACTIVE CHILDREN AND PREOCCUPIED PARENTS SOMETIMES ALLOW THAT ONE MOMENT OF CARELESSNESS WHICH IS ALL THAT FIRE NEEDS.

+SMALL CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR THE TREES SHOULD THEREFORE BE SUPERVISED,+ HE STRESSED. +THEY SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME, BUT ON OCCASIONS WHEN IT BECOMES UNAVOIDABLE, MAKE SURE THAT ALL MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CANDLES ARE KEPT WELL OUT OF THEIR REACH.+

+A FEW PRECAUTIONS TAKEN NOW COULD PREVENT TRAGEDY STRIKING DURING THE HOLIDAYS,+ HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, FIRE OFFICERS WILL BE VISITING AS FROM TODAY ALL RESTAURANTS AND NIGHTCLUBS TO GIVE ADVICE ON HOW TO PREVENT FIRE AND TO ENSURE THAT FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS IN SUCH PLACES ARE BEING PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

THEY WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE MEANS OF ESCAPE AND THE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE THE PUBLIC ARE LIKELY TO ASSEMBLE IN LARGE NUMBERS.

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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 TAM WING-KWAI ON MARCH 10, 1976 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

TAM WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LEE HO.

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TWO N.T.A. OFFICERS RETIRE
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MR. BARRIE WIGGHAM TODAY PERFORMED HIS LAST OFFICIAL FUNCTION AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES BY PRESENTING FAREWELL GIFTS TO TWO RETIRING NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS WHO HAVE A TOTAL OF ABOUT 60 YEARS' GOVERNMENT SERVICE BEHIND THEM.

MR. WIGGHAM, WHO IS REPLACING MR. DAVID FORD AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION MADE THE PRESENTATION AT THE SHATIN DISTRICT OFFICE TO MR. YOONUS TIPE, A LAND ASSISTANT WHO JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1940, AND MR. CHAN KAM-TONG, WHO HAS BEEN A CLERICAL OFFICER FOR 29 YEARS.

MR. TIPE STARTED HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AND WORKED AT THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL UNTIL THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION. HE MADE HIS WAY OUT OF HONG KONG IN 1943 AND WENT TO INDIA, JOINED THE ARMY AND LATER BECAME A MEMBER OF THE FAMOUS CHINDITS FORCE.

HE RETURNED TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1947 AND WORKED IN THE OLD SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT BEFORE BECOMING A LAND BAILIFF IN 1959. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BECOME WELL KNOWN FOR WORKING IN EVERY DISTRICT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR. CHAN HAS SPENT ALL HIS WORKING LIFE IN THE TAI PO AND SHATIN DISTRICT OFFICES RISING THROUGH THE RANKS AND BEING AWARDED THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL IN THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST IN 1974.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN UPPER LEVELS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WITH THE COMPLETION OF LANDSLIDE REMEDIAL WORKS AT THE REAR OF NO. 22 OLD PEAK ROAD, TREGUNTER PATH FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH OLD PEAK ROAD WOULD BE RE-OPENED FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 23).

THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY WEST-BOUND. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 2 WILL ALSO RESUME OPERATION ON THURSDAY FROM HMS TAMAR TO OLD PEAK ROAD.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM THURSDAY (DECEMBER 23) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT CONNECTION WORK IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE NOS. 865 TO 941 KING'S ROAD.

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