



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1977

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SAU MAU PING LANDSLIDE COMPENSATION FUND APPROVED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A \$10 MILLION FUND TO MEET CLAIMS FOR EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FROM VICTIMS OF THE 1976 AND 1972 LANDSLIDES AT SAU MAU PING.

IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD CONTROL THE FUNDS.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IN FEBRUARY TO ACCEPT AN OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LANDSLIDES AND TO PAY EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIMS, 206 CLAIMANTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT WHICH IS ASSISTING THEM WITH THE PREPARATION OF THEIR CLAIMS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CLAIMS WERE ALREADY REACHING THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FROM THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, AND ONCE THE CLAIMS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AND AGREED UPON BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IT WOULD MAKE PAYMENT TO THE CLAIMANTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+UNTIL ALL CLAIMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND EXAMINED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE WITH ANY ACCURACY THE EXPENDITURE WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE 206 CLAIMS SO FAR RECEIVED -- 19 OF WHICH HAVE LATER BEEN WITHDRAWN, -- IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT A SUM OF ABOUT \$10 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SETTLE THE CLAIMS, HE ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH CLAIMS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE CLAIMANTS AS TO THE BONA FIDES OF THEIR CLAIMS, AND FOR ENGAGING A SOLICITOR FOR THE PURPOSES OF PREPARING A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

ON RECEIPT OF THE CLAIM, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WOULD EXAMINE AND CONFIRM THAT THE CLAIMANT WAS THE PERSON ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION.

IF A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE CLAIMANT'S SOLICITOR AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WOULD ARRANGE FOR THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID. IF NO SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED, HOWEVER, THE CLAIM WOULD BE REFERRED TO AN INDEPENDENT BOARD OF ARBITRATION APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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WARNING AGAINST USE OF EXPLOSIVES OR
TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FISHING

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO USE EXPLOSIVES OR TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FISHING.

THE FISHERIES PROTECTION ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR A FINE OF \$2,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS AGAINST ANY PERSON WHO IS FOUND IN BREACH OF THE LAW.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE PRACTICE OF USING SUCH TOXIC SUBSTANCES AS TEA-SEED CAKE OR EXTRACTS FROM THE ROOT OF A SHRUB COMMONLY KNOWN AS +YUE TANG+ IS BANNED BECAUSE IT INDISCRIMINATELY KILLED ALL SIZES OF FISH AS WELL AS OTHER MARINE ORGANISMS.

+THIS HAS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES AS WELL AS UPSETTING THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE OF THE INSHORE WATERS,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES IS DANGEROUS AND CAN KILL OR CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY INJURIES TO NEARBY SWIMMERS OR SKINDIVERS.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE IF ANYONE WITNESSED THE OFFENCE BEING COMMITTED.

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AIR MAIL SERVICES TO AUSTRALIA RESUMED

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT AIR MAIL SERVICES TO AUSTRALIA, CHRISTMAS ISLAND, COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, NEW HEBRIDES AND TUVALU HAVE BEEN RESUMED.

DAILY AIR MAIL SERVICES TO NEW ZEALAND HAVE ALSO RETURNED TO NORMAL.

AIR MAIL SERVICES TO THOSE AREAS HAD BEEN DISRUPTED SINCE MAY 6 DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IN AUSTRALIA AND THE SUSPENSION OF ALL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THAT COUNTRY.

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PASSING OUT PARADE OF FIRE OFFICERS

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THE CAPTAIN-IN-CHARGE, ROYAL NAVY HONG KONG, CAPTAIN R.L. GARNONS-WILLIAMS, TOLD THE FIREMEN TAKING PART IN A PASSING OUT PARADE TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE TRAINING THEY RECEIVED, WAS DESIGNED TO BRING OUT IN THEM COURAGE, FITNESS, TEAMWORK AND PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE.

HE WAS ADDRESSING 21 OFFICERS AND 105 FIREMEN WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED A 26-WEEK BASIC COURSE AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID THAT, AS A NAVAL OFFICER, HE WAS VERY AWARE OF THE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH A FIRE IN A MODERN WARSHIP, THE SPEED AT WHICH IT COULD SPREAD, THE HAVOC IT COULD GENERATE AND THE DIFFICULTIES IT COULD CAUSE TO THE FIRE FIGHTERS.

+YOUR PROBLEMS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO OURS, DEMANDING THE SAME HIGH DISCIPLINE, EXCELLENT TRAINING AND DEDICATION IN YOUR OWN CORPS,+ CAPTAIN GARNONS-WILLIAMS NOTED.

+YOUR TRAINING HERE HAS GIVEN YOU THE KNOWLEDGE, CONFIDENCE AND FITNESS, BUT ONLY YOU CAN ADD THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION THAT YOU WILL SURELY NEED,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO ON PARADE TODAY WERE ONE SQUAD OF OFFICERS AND TWO SQUADS OF FIREMEN STILL UNDER TRAINING.

AFTER THE PARADE, THE 25TH TO BE HELD AT THE SCHOOL, CAPTAIN GARNONS-WILLIAMS WATCHED A FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION GIVEN BY THE NEWLY QUALIFIED FIREMEN.

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