



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1981

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KCR STAFF ASSURED ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS
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KCR STAFF HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY WILL IN NO WAY BE WORSE OFF UNDER THE NEW KCR CORPORATION.

THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WERE GIVEN THE ASSURANCE AT A MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THIS AFTERNOON. AT THE MEETING WERE MR D.M. HOWES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) OF THE KCRC- MR WONG U-LAM, GENERAL MANAGER, RAILWAY- MR H.G. ARDLEY, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, AND MR GORDON SIU, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

MR HOWES TOLD THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED BY THE KCRC TRANSITIONAL BOARD, WHICH HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING THIS MORNING, TO TELL THEM THAT THE BOARD HAVE NO INTENTION OF PRESENTING EXISTING KCR STAFF WITH ANY PRE-DETERMINED PACKAGE CONCERNING THE FUTURE TERMS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

+ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS FULLY INTENDED THAT AT EVERY STAGE THERE WILL BE FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE KCR STAFF REPRESENTATIVES AND THAT STAFF REPRESENTATIONS WILL AT ALL TIMES BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF MR HOWES AND MR WONG TO THE TRANSITIONAL BOARD, THERE ARE NOW TWO LONG-SERVING PROFESSIONAL RAILWAY OFFICERS ON THE BOARD WHO CAN SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY IN THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF KCR AND ITS WORKFORCE.

MR HOWES AND MR WONG ALSO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS RELATIVE TO THE EXISTING KCR STAFF AS A BASIS OF DISCUSSION.

+ANY OPTION CONSIDERED AND TABLED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE KCR STAFF REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESENT KCR STAFF WILL IN NO WAY BE WORSE OFF THAN THEY ARE AT THE PRESENT TIME,+ MR HOWES TOLD THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

ONE POSSIBLE OPTION WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED MORE FULLY WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS THE OFFER OF ABOLITION OF OFFICE TERMS TOGETHER WITH AN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT FOLLOWED BY RE-EMPLOYMENT BY THE FUTURE KCRC. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE DETERMINED ON THE ADVICE OF AN INDEPENDENT BODY ON WHICH THE STAFF WILL NOMINATE A REPRESENTATIVE. THE OPTION COULD ALSO INCLUDE AN INITIAL PERIOD OF SECONDMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

+WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE CONTINUING ANXIETY FELT BY THE WHOLE OF THE KCR STAFF AND, UPON MY RETURN FROM LEAVE AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WE WILL MEET FORMALLY AND BEGIN DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE ISSUES,+ MR HOWES SAID.

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KCR CORPORATION CHIEF NAMED
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FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO TURN THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY INTO A PUBLIC CORPORATION, THE GOVERNOR, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION TRANSITIONAL BOARD, HAS APPOINTED MR D.M. HOWES TO BE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (DESIGNATE) OF THE FUTURE CORPORATION.

BY VIRTUE OF HIS APPOINTMENT HE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE KCR CORPORATION TRANSITIONAL BOARD.

THE GOVERNOR, AGAIN ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL BOARD, HAS ALSO APPOINTED THE GENERAL MANAGER, RAILWAY, MR WONG U-LAM, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE TRANSITIONAL BOARD WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS APPOINTMENT WOULD BRING TO THE BOARD FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONING OF THE KCR AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO THE BOARD IN ITS DELIBERATIONS.

MR HOWES WAS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KCR FROM MAY 1978 TO MARCH 1981. HE IS CURRENTLY CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ELECTRIFICATION AND MODERNISATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

PRIOR TO TAKING UP THAT APPOINTMENT MR HOWES HAD SPENT HIS WHOLE CAREER ON RAILWAY MATTERS IN BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. DURING THE 1970S' HE WAS DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE LONDON MIDLAND REGION OF BRITISH RAIL AND DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRANSMARK, THE BRITISH RAIL CONSULTANCY ORGANISATION.

MR HOWES, WHO IS 62, WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD ON JANUARY 1.

PENDING THE CREATION OF THE KCR CORPORATION, HIS PRIME RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS OF THE KCRC TRANSITIONAL BOARD. WHEN THE KCR CORPORATION IS CREATED MR HOWES WILL BECOME CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING AND OPERATING THE RAILWAY.

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DES VOEUX ROAD WEST TRAFFIC
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WESTBOUND VEHICLES ALONG DES VOEUX ROAD WEST IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO WILMER STREET FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 23).

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NO RESERVATION FOR CHINA-BOUND PASSENGERS DURING CHRISTMAS
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FIRST-CLASS SEAT RESERVATIONS WILL BE CANCELLED ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 23) AND THURSDAY (DECEMBER 24) OWING TO THE HEAVY CHINA-BOUND PASSENGER TRAFFIC EXPECTED DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KCR ADVISED CHINA-BOUND PASSENGERS TO BUY ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS WHICH WILL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE SO THAT ON THEIR RETURN JOURNEY, THEY MAY BOARD ANY TRAIN FROM LO WU TO KOWLOON WITHOUT HAVING TO QUEUE FOR TICKETS AT THE CONGESTED LO WU STATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL PASSENGER TRAINS TO RACECOURSE STATION ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1982 WHICH IS A RACE DAY +BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO RUN SPECIAL TRAINS FROM LO WU TO KOWLOON TO CONVEY PASSENGERS RETURNING FROM CHINA.+

+THE KCR APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO RACE-GOERS ON THAT DAY,+ HE ADDED.

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HOLIDAY WATER HOURS
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT WATER RESTRICTIONS WILL BE RELAXED TOMORROW (DECEMBER 22) AND ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER, MR TOM TOMLINSON SAID TODAY (MONDAY), +SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED ON FROM 6 AM TOMORROW, WHICH IS WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL DAY TO 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 23).+

+DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, TAPS WILL BE TURNED ON FROM 6 AM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 24) TO 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 26).+

HE SAID THE TEMPORARY LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY REDUCE STORAGE LEVELS.

HOWEVER, MR TOMLINSON APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM ECONOMY IN THE USE OF WATER AND AVOID WASTE DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.

WATER STORAGE AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 45.6 PER CENT OR 263.782 MILLION CUBIC METRES, EQUIVALENT TO 220 DAYS' CONSUMPTION.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 317.035 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 54.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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\$57-MILLION TO IMPROVE ROADS AND DRAINAGE
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED A \$57-MILLION CONTRACT TO HARBOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED TO IMPROVE ROADS AND DRAINAGE IN THE ON LOK TSUEN AREA IN FANLING.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY MR C.W.D. TAYLOR, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TAI PO AND FANLING NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

THE PROJECT, FORMING PART OF THE FANLING NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDES THE DUPLICATION OF ABOUT 800 METRES OF THE EXISTING SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO FORM A DUAL, TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH THREE SUBWAYS.

IN ADDITION, ABOUT THREE KILOMETRES OF LOCAL ROADS WILL BE BUILT, ALONG WITH DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE AND A FOOTPATH/CYCLETRACK NETWORKS.

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FOOTBRIDGES FOR TSIM SHA TSUI
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TWO STEEL FOOTBRIDGES ARE TO BE BUILT ACROSS SALISBURY ROAD AND CHING YEE ROAD IN EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, TO PROVIDE SAFE CROSSING POINTS FOR PEDESTRIANS.

A \$20-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK WAS TODAY AWARDED TO FRANKI CONTRACTORS LIMITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS SIGNED BY MR H.S. KWONG, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

THE TWO FOOTBRIDGES, EACH ABOUT 300 METRES LONG, WILL BE ADJACENT TO THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL AND HOLIDAY INN HARBOUR VIEW HOTEL.

THE FOOTBRIDGES WILL BE COVERED TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS FROM THE WEATHER.

THE WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND TAKE ABOUT ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

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COMMUNITY DAY AT LAM TIN

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ABOUT 500 COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN IN A DAY OF FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE 'LAM TIN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT DAY' TOMORROW AFTERNOON (TUESDAY) AT LAM TIN SERVICE RESERVOIR PLAYGROUND IN PING TIN STREET.

GETTING TOGETHER WILL BE KAIFONG AND LOCAL LEADERS, MEMBERS FROM THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE EVENT IS AIMED AT PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS FROM THE VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE DISTRICT TO GET TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS AND TO CULTIVATE A GREATER SENSE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AMID AN ATMOSPHERE OF FUN AND GAMES.

THE DAY'S EVENTS WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM WITH A FRIENDLY FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FOLLOWED BY ONE BETWEEN THE LAM TIN AREA COMMITTEE FOOTBALL TEAM AND THE LAM TIN HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S FOOTBALL TEAM.

A TEA PARTY WILL BE HELD AFTER THE MATCHES.

THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR DAVID TSUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE KICK-OFF CEREMONY AT 2 PM IN THE PLAYGROUND.

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REFRESHER COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH COUNCIL TO RUN TWO REFRESHER COURSES BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL, 1982 FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

EACH COURSE WILL BE OF 90 HOURS DURATION AND LIMITED TO 25 TEACHERS.

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE COURSE ARE TO IMPROVE TEACHERS' FLUENCY AND CONFIDENCE IN USING SPOKEN ENGLISH, AND TO MAKE TEACHERS A MORE ACCURATE MODEL OF ENGLISH FOR THEIR PUPILS. THE COURSE WILL ALSO INTRODUCE TEACHERS TO A RANGE OF COMMUNICATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO FURTHER IMPROVE PARTICIPANT'S ORAL PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE FOR TEACHERS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE REFRESHER COURSE TO ENROL IN A THREE-MONTH ENGLISH CLASS AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE COURSES WHICH WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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SWEETMAN CUP SQUASH COMPETITION

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EIGHT WINNERS OF A SHA TIN SQUASH COMPETITION LAUNCHED EARL
LAST WEEK WERE PRESENTED WITH 'SWEETMAN CUPS' TODAY (MONDAY).

THE 1981 'SWEETMAN CUP' SHA TIN NOVICE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION
WAS ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION PROMOTION UNIT OF THE NEW
TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

AIMED AT PROMOTING THE SPORT IN THE DISTRICT, THE COMPETITION
ATTRACTED 68 MEN AND 15 WOMEN PLAYERS FOR THE EVENTS HELD AT THE
SHA TIN JOCKEY CLUB SQUASH COURT.

RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

MEN'S SINGLES:- CHAMPION - MR CHIU MAN-SHUN= FIRST
RUNNER-UP - MR T. NORCROSS= SECOND RUNNER-UP - MR LAU SIU-KEI=
THIRD RUNNER-UP - MR CHAU CHI-MING.

WOMEN'S SINGLES:- CHAMPION - MISS TANG MEI-HO= FIRST
RUNNER-UP - MISS KWOK KI-HAN= SECOND RUNNER-UP - MISS WONG
SIU-CHUN= THIRD RUNNER-UP - MISS LEE CHOI-HUNG.

THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN,
PRESENTED THE CUPS, WHICH ARE NAMED AFTER HIM, TO THE WINNERS
DURING A CEREMONY IMMEDIATELY AFTER TODAY'S FINALS.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE FUNCTION WAS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
(SOUTH REGION) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JAMES WILSON.

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YUEN LONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT

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A TWO-HOUR CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FORMING OF YUEN LONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY
(DECEMBER 26).

THE CONCERT, ORGANISED BY YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND LUT SAU HALL,
IS ALSO PART OF THE DISTRICT'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME.

THE 64-MEMBER CHOIR WILL PRESENT FOLK AND CLASSIC SONGS,
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND AN OPERA.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS TO THE EVENT, WHICH STARTS AT 7.30 PM,
ARE AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE TOWN HALL.

OTHER CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS ORGANISED BY THE TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT
INCLUDE A FEAST FOR THE ELDERLY, A YOUTH BALL AND A CHILDREN'S
CARNIVAL.

THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD HAS PROVIDED OVER \$45 000 TOWARDS THE
COST OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

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CHRISTMAS DUTY FREE BRANDY
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PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU ON THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS DAY, MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY OF NOT MORE THAN ONE LITRE, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS CONCESSION IS ALLOWED IN LIEU OF THE USUAL NORMAL ONE-QUART BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE.

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS
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A CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE AND THE HONGKONG LAND GROUP AND SPONSORED BY TSANG FOOK PIANO COMPANY LTD., WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 24 (THURSDAY) FROM 5 PM TO 6 PM AT THE LANDMARK, CENTRAL DISTRICT.

THE CHAI WAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE KWUN TONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CONDUCTED BY MR SILAS NG, MISS HO SAU-LING AND MR SUNG LAP-ON WILL SING ENGLISH AND CHINESE CAROLS, THEME SONGS FROM TELEVISION SHOWS, FAURE'S MARIA, MATER GRATIAE AND MOZART'S +ALLELUJA+.

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CROWN LAND LOT SOLD
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ONE LOT OF CROWN LAND WAS SOLD AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE AT THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TODAY.

THE LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 4 154 SQUARE METRES IN KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION, IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO MUSTLAND INVESTMENTS LIMITED FOR \$34.2 MILLION OR \$8 233.03 PER SQUARE METRE.

ANOTHER LOT OFF SOUTH BAY ROAD WAS WITHDRAWN FROM AUCTION BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIDDERS.

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