



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1978

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GOVERNOR TAKES A 'RAIL BUS' RIDE TO SEE KCR DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY WENT FOR A 'RAIL BUS' RIDE TO SEE THE PROGRESS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY'S MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMMES.

THE NEW PROJECTS THAT THE GOVERNOR SAW DURING HIS TRIP FROM KOWLOON TO THE RACE COURSE STATION INCLUDED WORK ON DOUBLE TRACKING AND RESIGNALING BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN, RE-BALLASTING AND RELAYING OF TRACK WITH CONTINUOUSLY WELDED RAIL TO CATER FOR FAST TRAINS.

EN ROUTE HE VIEWED THE SITES FOR NEW STATIONS AT KOWLOON TONG AND TAI WAI AND STOPPED TO SEE PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BEACON HILL TUNNEL.

HE ALSO VISITED THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED SHA TIN TEMPORARY STATION WHICH, BY THE END OF 1980, WILL BE REPLACED BY A MODERN STATION INCORPORATING PODIUM DEVELOPMENT WITH A CONCOURSE ABOVE TRACK LEVEL, RESTAURANTS, SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL OFFICES.

SIR MURRAY ALSO WENT TO THE HO TUNG LAU WORKSHOPS DESCRIBED BY A KCR SPOKESMAN AS +THE BACK-BONE OF THE RAILWAY+.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF ALL ROLLING STOCK TO ENSURE THAT STANDARDS OF COMFORT FOR PASSENGERS AND MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY AND RELIABILITY ARE MAINTAINED.

UNDER THEIR CARE ARE 12 LOCOMOTIVES, 99 COACHES AND 102 WAGONS WHICH LAST YEAR CONVEYED 14.5 MILLION PASSENGERS, 1.5 MILLION TONS OF FREIGHT AND 1.9 MILLION HEADS OF LIVESTOCK.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE WORKSHOPS TO COPE WITH THE NEW ELECTRIFIED RAILWAY SERVICE IN 1981, AND SAW A DEMONSTRATION ON HOW A DERAILED WAGON WAS PUT BACK ONTO THE TRACK BY A MAINTENANCE CREW USING POWERFUL HYDRAULIC RE-RAILING EQUIPMENT.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES AND KCR GENERAL MANAGER, MR. BOBBIE HOWES.

DURING HIS THREE-HOUR VISIT, SIR MURRAY ALSO HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. JONES AND MR. HOWES ON VARIOUS RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO RAILWAY STAFF UNIONS.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO THE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, SIR MURRAY ALSO MET AND SPOKE TO MANY OF THE VILLAGERS OF LOK LO HA WHO PRESENTED HIM WITH A PETITION. IN THE PETITION, THE VILLAGERS ASKED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVING THE VILLAGE WHICH THEY FEEL HAS DETERIORATED DUE TO DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUS TURNING CIRCLE IS EXPECTED TO START VERY SOON IN THE NEW YEAR. WHEN THIS IS FINISHED IT SHOULD ALLOW FOR EXTENSION OF THE NUMBER 88B BUS SERVICE TO WITHIN THE WALKING DISTANCE OF LOK LO HA VILLAGE.+

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S.N.T. ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF N.T. WALKS FOR MILLIONS

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THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S WALKS FOR MILLIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- WHICH WILL BE SPLIT INTO FIVE DISTRICT WALKS -- WILL BE A REAL TEST OF STAMINA AND HILL-WALKING SKILLS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT WALKS.

ALSO AT THE CONFERENCE WERE THE COMMUNITY CHEST'S NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT WALKS CHAIRMAN, MR. MIKE ILLINGWORTH AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PAT SIN RANGE WALK ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SAID THE WALKS -- IN TSUEN WAN, TAI PO, YUEN LONG-TUEN MUN, AND ON THE PAT SIN RANGE -- WILL BE STAGED ON SEPARATE SUNDAYS EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE AGGREGATE DONATIONS FROM THE DISTRICTS INVOLVED WILL REPRESENT THE OVERALL N.T. EFFORT.

THE NEW VENTURE, MARKS ANOTHER ANNUAL CHARITY CAMPAIGN MOUNTED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND THE RURAL POPULATION.

THE PAT SIN RANGE WALK WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 4. IT STARTS NEAR HOK TAU WAI VILLAGE AND FINISHES AT THE BRIDE'S POOL CAR PARK, INVOLVING +QUITE A STIFF CLIMB+ UP TO THE RIDGE PATH WHICH REACHES AS HIGH AS 2,000 FEET.

+THE DISTANCE IS ABOUT EIGHT MILES, AND MOST OF IT ALONG VERY RUGGED TRACKS OR NARROW PATHS,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LIMITED TO 500, MAINLY DRAWN FROM ORGANISATIONS WHICH MAY PROVIDE WALKERS WHO ARE PHYSICALLY FIT AND HAVE HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF HILL-WALKING.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID: +THIS IS A CHALLENGING WALK ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO CATER FOR YOUTH WITH STRONG LIMBS.

+IT IS EXPECTED TO RAISE HALF A MILLION DOLLARS AND EACH PARTICIPANT WILL NEED TO SECURE A SPONSORSHIP OF \$1,000 BEFORE COMMENCING THE WALK.

+IN CASE OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN RAISING THE REQUIRED SUM FROM HIS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE WILL TRY TO ASSIST IN RAISING NOT MORE THAN \$500 FOR EACH OF THEM TO MAKE UP THE AMOUNT.+

OUTLINING THE PLANS FOR THE OTHER WALKS, MR. ILLINGWORTH SAID THAT DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE OLD ROUTE IN TSUEN WAN, A SERIES OF FIVE DISTRICT WALKS WOULD SUPERSEDE ONE MAJOR WALK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

/+BASICALLY,+ .....

+BASICALLY,+ HE SAID,+THE FIVE DISTRICT WALKS WILL BE HELD ON THREE SUNDAYS, ON JANUARY 7 AND 14 AND FEBRUARY 4 NEXT YEAR.+

TWO DISTRICT WALKS -- ONE FOR GROUP PARTICIPATION AND THE OTHER YOUTHS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN -- WILL BE HELD IN TSUEN WAN ON JANUARY 7 AND 14 IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHING MUN RESERVOIR, EACH ACCOMMODATING A MAXIMUM OF 10,000 PEOPLE.

THE ROUTE TAKES IN 10 MILES, STARTS AND FINISHES AT THE LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH ALSO SAID ANOTHER DISTRICT WALK WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN TAI PO ON JANUARY 7.

IT COVERS AN 11-MILE ROUTE STARTING AND ENDING AT FUNG KAI SECONDARY SCHOOL. +AS PART OF THE ROUTE IS QUITE ROUGH, TWO SHORTER PATHS ARE PLANNED TO CATER FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS,+ HE ADDED.

THE FOURTH WALK WILL BE STAGED IN YUEN LONG-TUEN MUN ON JANUARY 14, HE SAID. THE ROUTE FROM SHEUNG TSUEN PLAYGROUND TO THE TAI LAM CHUNG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL IS 13 MILES LONG BUT CAN ONLY TAKE UP TO 5,000 WALKERS.

THE PAT SIN RANGE WALK ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR. STEPHEN WONG ALSO TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT THE DISTRICT WALK CONCEPT WAS AN ENTIRELY NEW ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE LOCAL PEOPLE OF INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS TO ENHANCE THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

+THE AIM OF THE FIVE DISTRICT WALKS IS TO RAISE A TOTAL OF \$1.2 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

+WITH THE FULL AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND RURAL LEADERS, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO EXCEED OUR PRIMARY TARGET.+

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#### PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1978

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES, RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), SHOWED THAT HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE DURING NOVEMBER, 1978, TOTALLED \$10,600 MILLION.

THE TOTAL COMPRISED DOMESTIC EXPORTS VALUED AT \$3,797 MILLION, IMPORTS \$6,420 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$1,383 MILLION.

THE SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER FIGURES (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977, OF 26.8 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 42.0 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 47.6 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER ROSE BY 31.5 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$742 MILLION OR 24.3 PER CENT IN EXPORTS, \$2,095 MILLION OR 48.4 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$515 MILLION OR 59.3 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES - NOVEMBER 1978 COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1978 - SHOWED INCREASES OF \$815 MILLION OR 14.5 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS, \$145 MILLION OR 11.7 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, AND A DECREASE OF \$9 MILLION OR 0.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM DECEMBER, 1977, TO NOVEMBER, 1978, COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 15.8 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 27.6 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 33.8 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER, 1978:

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$3,797 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: \$6,420 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: \$1,383 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: \$1,240 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

#### COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	SEPT.-NOV. 1978	SEPT.-NOV. 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	11,339	8,939	+ 2,400	+ 26.8
IMPORTS	17,529	12,347	+ 5,182	+ 42.0
RE-EXPORTS	3,822	2,589	+ 1,233	+ 47.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 2,368	- 819	- 1,549	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	NOVEMBER 1978	NOVEMBER 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,797 (73.3%)	3,055 (77.9%)	+ 742	+ 24.3
IMPORTS	6,420	4,325	+ 2,095	+ 48.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,383 (26.7%)	868 (22.1%)	+ 515	+ 59.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 1,240	- 402	- 838	

/LAST MONTH .....

<u>LAST MONTH</u>	NOVEMBER 1978	OCTOBER 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,797 (73.3%)	3,806 (75.4%)	- 9	- 0.2
IMPORTS	6,420	5,605	+ 815	+ 14.5
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,383 (26.7%)	1,238 (24.6%)	+ 145	+ 11.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 1,240	- 561	- 679	
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN.-NOV. 1978	JAN.-NOV. 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	36,379 (75.3%)	31,427 (78.0%)	+ 4,952	+ 15.8
IMPORTS	56,159	43,785	+12,375	+ 28.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11,956 (24.7%)	8,855 (22.0%)	+ 3,101	+ 35.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 7,824	- 3,503	- 4,322	
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	DEC. 1977 TO NOV. 1978	DEC. 1976 TO NOV. 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	39,956	34,519	+ 5,437	+ 15.8
IMPORTS	61,076	47,851	+ 13,225	+ 27.6
RE-EXPORTS	12,930	9,666	+ 3,264	+ 33.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 8,190	- 3,666	- 4,524	

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TUEN MUN NEW TOWN RECLAMATION WORK

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY BEGIN LARGE-SCALE RECLAMATION AND LAND FORMATION WORK IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN TO PROVIDE 43 HECTARES OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND OPEN SPACE.

THE WORK, TENDER FOR WHICH WILL BE INVITED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 760 METRES OF SEAWALL AND RIVERWALL AND THE PLACING OF ABOUT 1.6 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF FILLING MATERIAL WHICH WILL BE TAKEN FROM NEARBY BORROW AREAS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CASTLE PEAK RANGE AND FROM THE SEA BED NEAR CHEK LAP KOK ISLAND.

IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 145 METRES OF TWIN-BOX CULVERT AND 650 METRES OF ACCESS ROADS TO SERVE THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

MR. STAN BARDEN, PROJECT MANAGER (TUEN MUN), SAID RECLAMATION WORK WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

+THE RECLAMATION NOW IN PROGRESS NEAR PAK KOK IN THE WESTERN PART OF CASTLE PEAK BAY WILL BE EXTENDED FURTHER NORTH INTO THE SEA TO PROVIDE 7.5 HECTARES OF LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY ACCOMMODATE 60,000 PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

+NINE HECTARES OF LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO THE HOUSING ESTATE WILL ALSO BE RECLAIMED.+

THIS RECLAMATION TOGETHER WITH THE BREAKWATER TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE CENTRE OF CASTLE PEAK BAY WOULD FORM THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PART OF THE NEW TYPHOON SHELTER WHICH, WHEN FULLY COMPLETED, WOULD PROVIDE 55 HECTARES OF TYPHOON ANCHORAGE, MR. BARDEN SAID.

OTHER SITES TO BE FORMED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE THE AREA SOUTH OF TAI HING WEAVING FACTORY AND THE REMAINING PUBLIC RECLAMATION OPPOSITE KAU HUI.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY FOR \$32 MILLION AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE  
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THE \$32 MILLION AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE HAS MOVED ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETION FOLLOWING ITS TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY TODAY (THURSDAY).

A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE PLAYING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE PROJECT ATTENDED THE BRIEF CEREMONY PERFORMED BY MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE ENTIRE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 230-METRE-LONG BRIDGE, THE NORTHERN ROAD CONNECTIONS IN ABERDEEN AND THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS ON AP LEI CHAU.

MR. STEAD SAID THE SUPER-STRUCTURE OF THE BRIDGE AND ITS NORTHERN ROAD CONNECTIONS IN ABERDEEN WAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED.

HE ALSO ADDED THAT WORK ON THE SOUTHERN APPROACH ROADS ON AP LEI CHAU WAS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

THE WHOLE PROJECT, COSTING \$60 MILLION, WILL BE COMPLETED AND OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

MR. STEAD POINTED OUT: +THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO DEVELOP THE SOUTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

+THE BRIDGE AND THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1980, WILL PROVIDE A FAST AND DIRECT ROAD LINK FROM AP LEI CHAU TO THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

THE BRIDGE, WHICH IS OF THE BALANCED CANTILEVER TYPE, WILL CARRY TWO TRAFFIC LANES, WITH A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 1,500 VEHICLES PER HOUR IN EACH DIRECTION.

IT WILL ALSO CARRY A WATER MAIN AND OTHER ESSENTIAL UTILITIES TO SERVE THE EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH ON THE ISLAND, WHERE A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE CAPABLE OF HOUSING 19,000 PEOPLE IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

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SPECIAL TRAINS DURING X'MAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS  
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL OPERATE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL PASSENGER TRAINS DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FROM DECEMBER 24 (SUNDAY) TO DECEMBER 26 AND ON NEW YEAR'S DAY (JANUARY 1).

DURING THESE FOUR DAYS, THERE WILL BE SIX ADDITIONAL NORTHBOUND TRAINS LEAVING KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM AT 9.56 A.M., 10.50 A.M., 12.35 A.M., 1.35 P.M., 3.39 P.M. AND 6.33 P.M. THE FIRST THREE TRAINS WILL NOT STOP FOR PASSENGERS AT MONG KOK STATION.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SIX ADDITIONAL SOUTHBOUND TRAINS -- TWO LEAVING LO WU STATION AT 11.34 A.M. AND 12.58 P.M. AND FOUR LEAVING FAN LING STATION AT 2.14 P.M., 2.42 P.M., 4.52 P.M. AND 7.34 P.M.

A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT OWING TO THE EXTENSION OF THREE NORTHBOUND TRAINS FROM TAI PO MARKET STATION TO FAN LING OR LO WU STATIONS, SCHEDULED TRAINS LEAVING TAI PO MARKET STATION FOR KOWLOON AT 10.55 A.M., 11.47 A.M. AND 1.29 P.M. WOULD NOT RUN ON THE FOUR DAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT DURING THE FOUR DAYS, NEW TERRITORIES-BOUND TRAINS BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 1 P.M. AND KOWLOON-BOUND TRAINS BETWEEN 3 P.M. AND 7 P.M. WOULD PROBABLY BE FULL, THEREFORE TICKETS FOR TRAINS TO KOWLOON WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT MONG KOK STATION.

+FURTHER SPECIAL TRAINS WILL BE RUN LATE IN THE EVENINGS IF NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PASSENGERS GOING TO CHINA DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, ORDINARY CLASS PERIOD RETURN TICKETS FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU STATIONS WOULD BE SOLD AT KOWLOON STATION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO JANUARY 2.

ORDINARY CLASS PERIOD RETURN TICKETS, AT \$3.80 EACH, WILL BE VALID FOR THE JOURNEY FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU ON THE DATE OF ISSUE AND FOR A RETURN JOURNEY ON ANY DAY FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE UNTIL JANUARY 2, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON ARRIVAL AT LO WU, HE ADDED, PASSENGERS HOLDING RETURN TICKETS ARE REQUESTED TO SHOW THE TICKETS TO THE TICKET COLLECTORS AT THE EXIT GATES AND THEN KEEP THEM FOR USE ON THE RETURN JOURNEY AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE COLLECTED AT KOWLOON OR MONG KOK STATIONS.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, SEAT RESERVATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR NORTHBOUND SCHEDULED TRAINS LEAVING KOWLOON BETWEEN 5 A.M. AND 2.10 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND ON SATURDAY.

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INFORMATION BRANCH TO BE SET UP  
IN SECRETARIAT  
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A NEW POLICY BRANCH RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK IS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE NEW BRANCH WILL TAKE OVER THE INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES AT PRESENT HELD BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, MR. F.K. LI. THE NEW SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION WILL HAVE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, AS WELL AS PUBLIC RELATIONS OVERSEAS.

HEADING THE NEW BRANCH WILL BE MR. DAVID FORD, FORMER DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, WHO HAS BEEN ON SECONDMENT TO H.M. GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. MR. FORD IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST ON JANUARY 8.

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HEUNG YEE KUK VISITS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
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MORE THAN 20 HEUNG YEE KUK MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY WERE SHOWN THE COMPUTER-CONTROLLED SYSTEM FOR RECORDING STATISTICS AND DETAILS OF TRAVELLERS.

THE PARTY, LED BY THEIR CHAIRMAN MR. WONG YUEN-CHEUNG AND ACCOMPANIED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, FIRST VISITED THE TRAFFIC INDEX SECTION WHERE THEY WERE GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMPUTER-CONTROLLED SYSTEM.

THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE BRITISH PASSPORT SECTION WHERE PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING APPLICANTS FOR BRITISH PASSPORTS WERE EXPLAINED.

THEY ALSO VISITED THE TRAINING SECTION TO MEET NEWLY RECRUITED ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS.

THE PARTY WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR. MALCOLM CHADDERTON AND LATER WELCOMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR. R.G.B. BRIDGE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER SHOW A SURPLUS OF \$115.3 MILLION, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$148.6 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR. THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS OF \$118.3 MILLION FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$371.1 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE, AT \$886.7 MILLION, WAS \$223.2 MILLION MORE THAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1977.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS, AT \$1,002 MILLION, WERE \$487.1 MILLION MORE THAN FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

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CHRISTMAS DUTY FREE BRANDY

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THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT TRAVELLERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU ON DECEMBER 26 (TUESDAY) AND DECEMBER 27 MAY EACH BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY OF NOT MORE THAN ONE LITRE, INSTEAD OF THE ONE-QUART BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE NORMALLY ALLOWED.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL STOP FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23) TO 6 A.M. ON SUNDAY TO FACILITATE THE CONNECTION OF A WATER MAINS AT NELSON STREET NEAR THE BACK LANE OF SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY NATHAN ROAD TO SAI YEE STREET= ARGYLE STREET TO SOY STREET INCLUDING SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET= TUNG CHOI STREET AND FA YUEN STREET.

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