



HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SPECIAL ROYAL TOUR EDITION

Wednesday, November 8th, 1961

GREEN JADE STATUETTE OF OPERA HEROINE

Presentation To Princess Alexandra At Lee Theatre

When Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent attends the Cantonese Opera at the Lee Theatre this (Wednesday) evening, she will see a special Chinese dance put on for her entertainment by the Sien Fung Ming Chinese Operatic Troupe.

The Princess will see the whole of Act 5 which is considered the best in the play.

At this charity performance on behalf of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Her Royal Highness has graciously consented to hand a souvenir, on behalf of the Directors of the Tung Wah Hospitals, to the three leading artistes of the troupe. They are Miss Yam Kim-fai, Miss Pak Suet-sin and Mr. Leung Sing-por.

Miss Pak will present Her Royal Highness with a pale green jade statuette of Pak So-ching, the heroine of the play, as a souvenir of the occasion.

The statuette is eight inches high and the fine carving work has been undertaken by Hong Kong craftsmen.

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P. T. O.

SEA FOOD DINNER AT ABERDEEN

Sea food predominates on the menu which has been prepared for Her Royal Highness when she attends the dinner given by present and past Unofficial Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils and their ladies at the Sea Palace Restaurant, Aberdeen earlier in the evening.

The menu is as follows:-

Fish Ball and Fresh Mushroom

Stuffed Prawn Rolls with Ham & Bamboo-Shoots

Baked Lobster, Spring Onion Sauce

Roast Chicken, Cantonese Style

Crab Claws with Bamboo Pith in Clear Soup

Fried Fish, Sweet and Sour Sauce

Grilled Prawns, Tomato Sauce

Chow-Fan - Yeung Chow Style

Noodles - E-Fu Style

Jasmine Tea

The following are the hosts:

Present Members: The Hon. Sir Sik-nin Chau, Kt., C.B.E.; The Hon. Sir Michael Turner, Kt., C.B.E.; Dr. the Hon. A.M. Rodrigues, O.B.E., E.D.; The Hon. Richard C. Lee, O.B.E.; The Hon. C.Y. Kwan, O.B.E.; The Hon. J.D. Clague, C.B.E., M.C., T.D.; The Hon. Kwok Chan, O.B.E.; The Hon. H.D.M. Barton, M.B.E.; The Hon. Dhun J. Ruttonjee, O.B.E.; The Hon. Fung Ping-fan, O.B.E.; The Hon. Y.K. Kan, O.B.E. and The Hon. W.C.G. Knowles.

Past Members: Mr. W.N.T. Tam, O.B.E.; Mr. Leo D'Almada e Castro, C.B.E., Q.C.; Mr. Lo Man-wai, C.B.E.; Mr. C.E.M. Terry, C.B.E.; Mr. Ngan Shing-kwan, C.B.E. and Mr. G.M. Goldsack.

Past Provisional Members: Mr. D. Benson, O.B.E.; Mr. L. Kadoorie and Mr. D. Black.

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SO UK HOUSING ESTATE, KOWLOON

So Uk is the third housing estate built by the Hong Kong Housing Authority, a statutory body that provides flatted accommodation of a good basic standard for clerical workers, artisans and others in the middle-income group.

The estate is situated on a hillside in the densely-populated district of Cheung Sha Wan, about four miles from the Star Ferry pier, and faces almost due south. The tall blocks command fine views of the harbour.

The estate covers 19 acres and comprises 16 blocks, ranging from eight to 16 storeys in height. When completed later this year it will contain 5,300 flats, with accommodation for 33,000 people. The estate's present population is 22,000.

There is a large recreation area in the centre of the estate. Covered and open children's playgrounds have been sited throughout the estate.

There are two Government schools accommodating over 4,000 pupils and a number of private kindergartens. The estate has its own shopping centre, containing 30 shops.

Private rooms have been provided where tenants can give parties and there is also a large assembly hall.

The total cost of the estate will be HK\$54 million (£3,375,000 Sterling) and rents range from HK\$48 to HK\$138 a MONTH (£3 Sterling to £8. 12s.). The Colonial Welfare and Development Fund in Britain gave HK\$1.4 million (£87,500 Sterling) to help meet the cost of site formation.

The master plan of the estate was prepared by Mr. Eric Cumine, F.R.I.B.A., who was also chairman of a consortium of five architects in charge of different sections of the estate. Site formation work started in 1957 and building began in 1959.

The Hong Kong Housing Authority completed two estates on Hong Kong Island in 1958 and 1959 and these now accommodate 16,000 people. One, at North Point, has 1,955 flats and accommodates 12,500 people.

The Authority is currently working on three estates (including So Uk). They are all in Kowloon and will, when completed, provide homes for nearly 90,000 people. The three estates will cost HK\$122½ million (£7.6 million Sterling). The Authority is financing the projects by means of loans from the Colony's Development Fund.

(ENDS)

With the Compliments of the Director of Information Services

Wednesday, November 8th, 1961

BROADCAST APPEAL BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

The Commissioner of Police is broadcasting the following appeal over all English language radio programmes this evening. Superintendent Szeto Chi Yan is making the same broadcast on Chinese programmes on behalf of the Commissioner:

"I have come to the microphone tonight to ask you all to help the Government, the Police Force and one another to make it possible for everyone in Hong Kong to see our beautiful and charming visitor, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra. The Princess has expressed great anxiety lest an accident should occur to children during the course of one of her drives in Hong Kong.

"Hundreds of thousands of the people of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories have already seen her as she drove along our streets and roads.

"We all hope that many thousands more will see her during the next few days.

"I would, however, appeal to everyone watching her procession through the streets to be patient and considerate of one another and to obey carefully the advice of the policemen on duty. The Police are there, not to prevent people seeing the Princess, but to assist everyone, and particularly the children, to get a fair and equal view.

"Twice already, crowds have broken through Police cordons and run or have been pushed into the street in front of the Princess's car and those following it in the Royal procession. Fortunately no one has been hurt. But there might very easily have been a serious accident. I therefore appeal to all of you who are listening tonight to remain on the pavements or within the barriers erected by the Police for your protection and not to endanger your own safety and the safety of other people, especially little children who can easily be knocked over and trampled on.

"The.....
P. T. O.

"The Royal procession moves very slowly and, as I have already said, if you are patient and keep your position, everyone will get a sight of the Princess as she drives pass in her open car.

"Please do everything you can to co-operate with the authorities in this matter and ensure that a wonderful visit is not marred by accident or injury."

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P. F. O.

BACKGROUND NOTES PREPARED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

FISHERIES RESEARCH STATION, ABERDEEN

The Fisheries Research Station is a unit of the Hong Kong Government's Co-operative Development and Fisheries Department. Its main task is to investigate the fisheries resources of waters within fishing distance of Hong Kong. Because inshore waters are now badly over-fished, the emphasis is on investigating middle and far-distant fishing grounds, ranging up to 500 miles from Hong Kong. In this work the Station's research vessel "Cape St. Mary" is of vital importance (see notes below).

During her visit to the Station, H.R.H. Princess Alexandra will see a model of the South China Sea made from surveys recently carried out by the "Cape St. Mary". She will be shown a model of a pearl oyster farm and the technique of producing cultured pearls will be explained. Colour pictures taken under water, illustrating various aspects of the Colony's submarine life, will also be shown.

The staff of the Station consists of a senior research officer (who is the director) and six assistant research officers holding degrees from Hong Kong or Chinese universities. Three more research officers and two assistant research officers are to be recruited.

The non-scientific staff of the Station comprises the 17-man crew of the "Cape St. Mary", laboratory, field and clerical staff.

Research Programme

The Station's research programme is related to the immediate needs of the fishing industry and to the medium and long-term development of the fisheries. Investigations currently being carried out include:

An oceanographic survey of the northern half of the South China Sea, particularly on the Continental Shelf, extending to the Gulf of Tong King;

The distribution and abundance of demersal stocks of fish;

Taxonomic and biological studies;

The economics of the fisheries (Hong Kong has the biggest fishing fleet of any port in the Commonwealth, including over 3,800 mechanised vessels, and fish landings total over 52,000 tons a year);

Studies relating to pondfish and edible and pearl oyster culture.

(MORE)

FISHERIES RESEARCH STATION, HONG KONG

"Cape St. Mary"

The Station's research vessel "Cape St. Mary" is an otter trawler of 240 tons, 117 ft. in length. Built in 1951, she worked off the coasts of West Africa and British Guiana before being transferred permanently to Hong Kong as a gift from the British Government in September, 1959.

Accommodation includes berths for three scientists, leading into "wet" and "dry" laboratories. The vessel is equipped with a heavy duty hydraulic trawl winch enabling otter trawls to be towed in depths down to 200 fathoms and dredges much deeper.

A hydrographic winch is provided for water sampling and current measurements to 1,000 metres. The vessel carries two bathythermographs and the normal array of sampling equipment, meters, thermometers, nets, etc.

The "Cape St. Mary" is fitted with an echo sounder/echo ranger, and is soon to be equipped with radar.

The vessel has a range of 5,000 miles and regularly undertakes cruises of up to three weeks duration. With the progressive extension of the area surveyed, the vessel will eventually bring the entire South China Sea within the scope of the Station.

Research Programme

(ENDS)

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BACKGROUND NOTES PREPARED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

ABERDEEN FISH MARKET

Aberdeen Fish Market is the most modern of five markets operated by the Marketing Organisation of the Hong Kong Government's Co-operative Development and Fisheries Department. In 1960 the market handled nearly 18,000 tons of salt and freshwater fish valued at HK\$18,760,635 (£1,172,540).

The market has a regular staff of 133, supplemented by about 20 daily paid labourers, and any fisherman, whether inshore or deep sea, may bring his catch to it for sale. Market staff unload the fishing vessels, sort the fish into types and sizes, weigh it and prepare it for sale in suitably sized lots.

The fish is sold by public auction. The auctioneers are employed by the Marketing Organisation and there are over 400 registered bidders, about 300 of whom attend the auction on any one day.

After being auctioned, the fish is transported to retail markets and shops by the Marketing Organisation. Despite the large quantities being handled each day, the fish is on its way to its destination within an hour of being sold.

Fishermen may collect the money due to them at the market directly after the sale of their catch, or can have it sent to their local depot. The Marketing Organisation charges 6% commission to cover all handling charges and transport.

The Organisation is, however, strictly non-profit-making and any surplus is therefore used to help the fishermen. Low-interest loans are given for any constructive purpose such as the purchase of an engine, or repairs to a fishing craft.

Another important service provided by the Marketing Organisation from its profits is the education of fisher children. Many fisher families dislike sending their children to 'land' schools and the Organisation has established 10 schools especially for them.

Capital subsidies are granted on a dollar-for-dollar basis -- the Organisation meets half the cost of each new school, the other half being met by the Hong Kong Government. The Organisation also provides help for needy fisher children in the form of scholarships and subsidies.

The number of children at present receiving education in the Organisation's schools or through scholarships granted by the Organisation is over 2,800.

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History of the Fish Marketing Organisation

Up to the end of the Pacific War in 1945, the marketing of fish in Hong Kong was in the hands of "laans" or middlemen, with the result -- familiar enough in other territories -- that the main emphasis was laid upon the extraction of wealth from the industry, no provision being made for development from within its own resources.

Nor was this the sole defect: exploitation of the fishermen was general and it was hard for fishermen to improve their social, economic or educational status. Their standards, in each of these important respects, were on the whole very much below those of other sections of the community.

It was against this background, and after the further dislocation of the industry during the Pacific War, that the Hong Kong Government decided in October 1945 to regulate the marketing of fish, initially by conferring powers on a government official.

From this decision was born the Fish Marketing Organisation, a non-government trading organisation controlled by a government servant, now the Commissioner for Co-operative Development and Fisheries.

By the provision of orderly and efficient marketing and transport facilities it is intended that the scheme shall improve the lot of the fishermen and ensure that they receive as large a share as possible of the market value of their produce, and so provide them with the means and encouragement to try out new and improved methods of fishing which, it is hoped, will greatly increase the supply of fish.

It is also the intention of the Hong Kong Government that the fishermen should eventually take over the Marketing Organisation and run it on a co-operative basis.

FOOTNOTE: Marine fish is Hong Kong's main primary product and the fishing fleet is the largest of any port in the Commonwealth. Over 10,400 fishing junks of various sizes and designs and 24 Japanese-type trawlers, 10 of which are British registered, sail from the Colony. They are manned by a sea-going population of about 86,000, chiefly Tanka people, and the fishing centres are Aberdeen and Shau Kei Wan on Hong Kong Island, and Tai Po, Castle Peak, the Tolo Channel area, Sha Tau Kok, Sai Kung, Tai O and Cheung Chau in the New Territories.

(ENDS)