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TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 1974

State Intelligence

Buckingham Palace.
15th February 1974.

This Day had Audience of QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER and The PRINCESS MARGARET, COUNTESS OF SNOWDON, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of The QUEEN:

His Excellency Mr. Hamidollah Enayat Seraj, to present the Letters of Recall of his predecessor Mr. Zalmay Mahmud-Ghazi, G.C.V.O., and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Afghanistan.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London, SW1A 2AH.
19th February 1974.

The QUEEN has been pleased to approve the award of the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry to Police Constable Chan Kam-ming of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

At 0910 hours on 14th October 1973, a man, believed to be an illegal immigrant, was sighted by Police Launch No. 52 swimming in Mirs Bay. At the time the weather conditions were poor with waves 5 to 6 feet high and a mean wind speed of approximately 24 knots. The launch approached to within 30 feet of the man and a life-buoy and line was thrown to him which he managed to hold. As a result of the rough sea conditions and his exhausted state, the swimmer was unable to maintain his hold on the life-buoy. Meanwhile the strong wind and tide had caused the launch to drift rapidly to leeward and close contact with the swimmer could not be maintained. The man began to flounder and it became obvious that he was

drowning. Police Constable Chan Kam-ming, acting on his own initiative, stripped and dived into the sea. He recovered a life-buoy thrown by a member of the crew and swam with it some 30 yards to the drowning man. The latter panicked and struggled violently with the Constable who lost his grip on the life-buoy during his efforts to keep the drowning man's head above water. Eventually the man lost consciousness.

The Police Constable managed to support him until the launch manoeuvred to within about 15 feet when another life-buoy on a line was thrown to him. He placed this over the man's head and he was drawn alongside the launch. A second officer then jumped into the sea to assist Police Constable Chan, who was by now exhausted, in putting the unconscious man on board the launch. Once on board, artificial respiration was applied and the man began to show signs of recovery. He was sent for treatment and subsequently made a full recovery.

In complete disregard for his own personal safety, Police Constable Chan Kam-ming displayed courage and determination of purpose of the highest order under dangerous conditions to save the life of a drowning man.

Home Office,
Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AP.
19th February 1974.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER, acting on behalf of Her Majesty by authority of Letters Patent under the Great Seal dated 25th January 1974, conferred the honour of Knighthood, at Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday, 12th February 1974, upon:

Sir Stanley George HOOKER, C.B.E., F.R.S.
Sir Leslie Ernest LAYCOCK, C.B.E.

[Her Majesty's approval of these Knighthoods was signified on 1st January 1974.]