



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK POPULAR AND UNSPOILT .....	1
COMPUTERISED BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM AT AIRPORT .....	3
HONG KONG HAS OVER 4-1/2 MILLION PEOPLE .....	4
NEW ROAD TO SERVE DEVELOPMENT OF TSING YI .....	5

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1977

- 1 -

## POPULAR SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK HAS UNSPOILT BEAUTY

\* \* \* \* \*

SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK, THE LARGEST, THE MOST REMOTE AND PROBABLY THE MOST SCENIC AND UNSPOILT OF ALL THE AREAS SO FAR PROPOSED FOR HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS HAS BEEN GAZETTED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION.

ALREADY THE POPULARITY OF THE PROPOSED PARK IS SUCH THAT IN MAY THIS YEAR, WITH THE HOT WEATHER APPROACHING AND WHEN MOST PEOPLE SWITCH TO WATER RECREATION, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE VISITING THE AREA WAS STILL OVER 100,000.

IN THE EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOVEMBER LAST YEAR A TOTAL OF 654,700 VISITORS SOUGHT THE PLEASURES OF THE RURAL SURROUNDINGS AND ENVIRONMENT HERE, WITH 130,000 BEING RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 1976 ALONE.

SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK STRETCHES FROM THE AREA OF THREE FATHOMS COVE EASTWARDS UP TO THE EDGE OF THE SEA, AND FROM HOI HA IN THE NORTH TO HIGH ISLAND IN THE SOUTH.

IT RETAINS EVEN TODAY AN IMPRESSION OF ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF HONG KONG, AND OF SOMETHING DIFFERENT. BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA WAS VIRTUALLY ANOTHER WORLD, REMOVED FROM THE CITY PROPER. ACCESS WAS MAINLY BY SEA OR BY FOOT BECAUSE THERE WERE NO ROADS, NO BUSES AND FEW VISITORS.

THE VILLAGERS FOUND IT BURDENSOME TO TREK THE SEVERAL MILES TO THE CITY AND SO GROUPS OF VILLAGES AND SMALL HAMLETS GREW UP ALONG THE COAST, WITH BOATS AS THE MAIN FORM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM, AND WITH SEA FISHING AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

HIRAMS HIGHWAY (ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT PART OF THE COUNTRY PARK) WAS BUILT IN 1945 BY THE BRITISH FORCES. IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR ROAD PROVIDED FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PENINSULA, AND IT LINKED THE WOODED SAI KUNG COUNTRY TO THE CITY.

DETAILS OF THE HISTORY OF THE AREAS THAT LIE WITHIN SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK ARE SPARSE AND LARGELY UNKNOWN, AN OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT REMARKED, BUT THERE WERE PROBABLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREA FROM EARLY TIMES.

HE ADDED THAT CERTAIN PARTS ARE SO EMPTY THAT, IN A DAY'S HIKE, NOT A SINGLE PERSON IS ENCOUNTERED EVEN TODAY.

BUT AT OTHER PLACES, VILLAGES AS OLD AS 200 YEARS WITH TEMPLES ARE TO BE FOUND, MAINLY INHABITED BY OLD MEN AND WOMEN. THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS HAVE GONE TO WORK IN THE URBAN AREAS, OR HAVE GONE ABROAD TO EARN A BETTER LIVING.

THE PARK COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,500 HECTARES (29 SQ. MILES) INCLUDING THE WATER SURFACE OF HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR WHEN IT IS COMPLETED. THIS MEANS THIS PARK AREA IS NEARLY TWICE THE SIZE OF SHING MUN, LION ROCK, KAM SHAN, TAI TAM AND ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARKS PUT TOGETHER.

/THERE ARE ....

THERE ARE MANY HECTARES OF NATURAL WOODLAND AND FORESTRY PLANTATIONS, BUT GRASSLAND PREDOMINATES AROUND THE CATCHMENT AREAS OF THE RESERVOIR AND THE ADJOINING HILLSLOPES.

THE COUNTRY PARK IS DIVIDED INTO VARIOUS ZONES CAREFULLY PLANNED WITH THE AIM OF ALLOWING FOR CONTROLLED PUBLIC RECREATION AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND FUNG SHUI OF THE COUNTRY.

+WE WANT TO SEE IT KEPT THIS WAY+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD SAID, +AND BY TURNING THIS BEAUTIFUL PENINSULA INTO A COUNTRY PARK, WE SHALL SET UP A MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION WHICH WILL DO ITS BEST TO MAKE THIS A REALITY+.

+RECREATION ZONES+ ARE CONCENTRATED ALONG THE TAI MONG TSAI ROAD, THE SHORES OF THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR, AND THE NORTH COAST NEAR HOI HA.

SOME OF THE MORE POPULAR SPOTS ARE AT TAI MONG TSAI, CHEUNG SHEUNG, HAM TIN, SAI WAN, LONG KE AND PAK LAP. THE PICTURESQUE CHEUNG SHEUNG PLATEAU IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO HIKERS. ON EVERY NEW YEAR DAY, REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS FROM PRACTICALLY ALL LOCAL HIKER CLUBS SCALE THE STEEPY +LADDER TO HEAVEN+ FROM YUNG SHU O AND MEET THERE FOR AN +ANNUAL CONGREGATION+. THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AT SOME OF THESE AREAS WITH THOSE AT THREE FATHOMS COVE AND HOI HA THE MOST POPULAR. THE WATER IS UNPOLLUTED AND THE SAND SMOOTH AND WHITE.

USUAL FACILITIES, SUCH AS BARBECUE PITS, PICNIC BENCHES AND TABLES, CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS AND SHELTERS ARE BEING PROVIDED IN SUITABLE PLACES WHERE FIRE RISK CAN BE CONTAINED, AND MORE WILL BE SET UP.

FOR PURE ENJOYMENT OF THE COUNTRY ATMOSPHERE, THE +WILDERNESS ZONE+ - ENCLOSED BY MILES OF HILLY PATHS CRISS-CROSSING DEEP INTO THE WOODS - PROVIDES PLEASANT WALKS FOR NATURE LOVERS. IT ALSO AFFORDS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. THE PADDY FIELDS, CLUSTERED VILLAGES, THE HILLS AND STREAMS BLEND INTO A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SPLENDID COMPOSITIONS AND, FOR THE PATIENT BIRD WATCHER THERE ARE ADEQUATE REWARDS WITH THE BLUE KINGFISHER TO BE OFTEN SEEN.

BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH PARK DEVELOPMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT SUCH AS NATURE TRAILS AND GUIDED WALKS- AND WHERE HILLS HAVE BEEN ERODED, YOUNG TREES, BOTH LOCAL AND INTRODUCED, ARE BEING MIX-PLANTED WITH FLOWERING BUSHES.

A PARK SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT PAK SHA O ALONE, MORE THAN 60,000 YOUNG TREES AND BUSHES HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN 1977 TO STOP THE EROSION OF SOIL, AND MORE WILL FOLLOW.

A PROJECT TO BEAUTIFY THE RESERVOIR AREAS BY LANDSCAPING WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE COUNTRY PARK ARE MANY. THE PUBLIC MAY ENTER THE PARK BY ROAD FROM SAI KUNG TOWN OR BY TOLO HARBOUR FERRY FROM TAI PO KAU, OR BY WATER TAXI FROM CENTRAL TO HIGH ISLAND. AT THE MOMENT THE PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE PARK BY ROAD FROM SAI KUNG TOWN DISMOUNTING AT THE CAR PARK AT TAI MONG TSAI. BEYOND THAT, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ROADS WHICH WILL BE USED BY A SPECIAL PARK BUS SERVICE TO ENABLE THE VISITORS TO REACH THE MAIN RECREATION AREAS.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1977

- 3 -

HONG KONG AIRPORT INSTALLS COMPUTERISED  
BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW SEMI-AUTOMATED BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM WITH A COMPUTERISED SORTATION COMPLEX HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE DEPARTURES LEVEL OF THE AIRPORT'S EXTENDED PASSENGER TERMINAL WHICH WILL OPEN TOMORROW (MONDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, TWO NEW CONVEYORISED BAGGAGE UNITS HAVE BEEN FITTED IN THE BAGGAGE RECLAIM HALL AT THE ARRIVALS LEVEL IN THE NEW EXTENSION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY BAGGAGE HANDLING PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PASSENGER PROCESSING - A FACTOR VITAL TO EFFICIENT OPERATION OF AN AIRPORT, AND KAI TAK, LIKE OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, IS ATTENDING TO AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF AIR TRAVELLERS.

THE SEMI-AUTOMATED BAGGAGE SYSTEM WILL MEET PASSENGER NEEDS AND MAINTAIN THE EFFICIENCY ACHIEVED IN PASSENGER HANDLING, HE SAID.

THE SYSTEM WILL SERVE ALL 24 CHECK-IN COUNTERS IN TWO ISLANDS AT THE NEW DEPARTURES HALL. EACH COUNTER IS INSTALLED WITH AN ELECTRONIC CONVEYOR WEIGHSCALE WHICH FEEDS BAGGAGE DIRECTLY ONTO TWO LATERALLY RUN CONVEYOR BELTS. THE BAGGAGE IS THEN DELIVERED TO THE COMPUTERISED SORTATION SYSTEM AT THE BASEMENT THROUGH VERTICAL CONVEYORS.

ONCE IN THE BASEMENT, THE BAGGAGE PASSES THROUGH ONE OF FOUR SORTATION STATIONS WHERE AN OPERATOR DIRECTS EACH BAG TO A PRE-ALLOCATED LOADING SPUR. IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC SYSTEM, PROVISION IS ALSO MADE FOR INTERLINE AND OUTSIZE, HEAVY AND VULNERABLE BAGGAGE.

TWO VERTICAL CONVEYORS ARE FITTED FOR EACH CHECK-IN ISLAND TO PROVIDE A DUPLICATION IN CASE OF CONVEYOR FAILURE.

THE TIME FROM ACCEPTANCE OF A BAG TO SORTATION VARIES FROM THREE TO SEVEN MINUTES, DEPENDING ON THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE CHECK-IN COUNTER AND THE SORTATION STATION IN USE.

A JAM DETECTION DEVICE WHICH SOUNDS AN ALARM IN THE CONTROL ROOM AND INDICATES THE LOCATION OF THE JAM WHEN A BAG BECOMES STATIONARY FOR OVER 10 SECONDS DURING DELIVERY IS PROVIDED TO PERMIT RAPID ATTENTION WITH MINIMUM EFFECT ON BAGGAGE FLOW.

AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THIS BAGGAGE SYSTEM IS THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY AND DUPLICATION OF MAJOR FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN BUILT IN TO ENABLE ANOTHER PART OF THE SYSTEM TO TAKE THE LOAD, OR FOR IT TO BE TEMPORARILY CIRCUMVENTED BY MANUAL HANDLING.

THE SYSTEM, COSTING MORE THAN \$12 MILLION, WILL ULTIMATELY BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING UP TO 6,000 PIECES OF BAGGAGE AN HOUR, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO A BUSY HOUR RATE OF 3,200 DEPARTING PASSENGERS.

/THE TWO .....

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1977

- 4 -

THE TWO NEW BAGGAGE RECLAIM UNITS AT THE ARRIVALS HALL EACH COMPRISES A 90-METRE-LONG CONVEYOR AND TWO AUTOMATIC FEED CONVEYORS WHICH DELIVER BAGS TO THE RECLAIM TRACK AT A RATE OF UP TO MORE THAN 70 BAGS PER MINUTE.

WORKING AT THIS RATE, IT WILL ONLY TAKE 10 TO 15 MINUTES TO UNLOAD A WIDE-CABIN JET WITH HIGH LOAD FACTORS.

EACH OF THESE UNITS HAS A CAPACITY IN EXCESS OF 800 PASSENGERS PER HOUR RESULTING MAINLY FROM THE AUTOMATIC FEED OF BAGS FROM THE INDUCTION BELTS ONTO THE ROTATING LOOPS.

A JAM DETECTION DEVICE IS ALSO INCORPORATED TO ENSURE RAPID ATTENTION WHEN A BAG IS BLOCKED FOR MORE THAN EIGHT SECONDS AT ANY POINT.

WHEN THE THREE SHORTER LOOPS IN THE EXISTING RECLAIM HALL ARE REPLACED AND WITH THE SYSTEMS MODIFIED IN 1979, THE FOUR RECLAIM UNITS WILL BE CAPABLE OF MEETING THE DEMAND EQUIVALENT TO A BUSY HOUR RATE OF 3,200 ARRIVING PASSENGERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### POPULATION OF HONG KONG OVER 4-1/2 MILLION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE THIS YEAR WAS 4,513,900, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 36,294 PERSONS OVER THE 1976 YEAR-END ESTIMATE, MADE UP OF A +PLUS+ OF 24,145 THROUGH BALANCE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS AND A GAIN OF 12,149 THROUGH BALANCE OF MIGRATION.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS THIS YEAR WAS 36,629 -- 1,601 MORE THAN THE FIGURE FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE HALF-YEAR WAS 12,484, COMPARED WITH 11,918 FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1976.

THE FIGURES ON BIRTHS AND DEATHS ARE BASED ON EVENTS OCCURRING RATHER THAN UPON REGISTRATIONS MADE AND THEREFORE DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE RELEASED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1977

- 5 -

PAVING THE WAY FOR TSING YI DEVELOPMENT  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BUILD A ROAD ON TSING YI ISLAND TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ALONG ITS WEST COAST.

THE ROAD WILL BE JUST OVER TWO KILOMETRES LONG AND 16 METRES WIDE, RUNNING FROM THE TSING YI POWER STATION AROUND THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE ISLAND TO THE WEST COAST WHERE SITES ARE BEING FORMED FOR SHIPYARDS.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS ROAD ALONG WITH MAJOR STORMWATER DRAINAGE WORKS, ARE BEING INVITED.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

MR. NORMAN TUCKER, THE P.W.D.'S CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAID THE PROJECT FORMED PART OF THE TSING YI DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE NEW TOWN.

THE DEVELOPMENT ON TSING YI CALLS FOR THE PROVISION OF ABOUT EIGHT HECTARES OF LAND FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES INCLUDING A SMALL TOWN CENTRE WITH A SIMILAR AREA FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN ADDITION, 30 HECTARES OF UNFORMED LAND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LAND INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES.

MR. TUCKER SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TSING YI WAS BEING ACCOMPANIED BY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AS PART OF THE BALANCED OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN AS A NEW TOWN.

ABOUT 6,000 PEOPLE HAVE SO FAR MOVED INTO THE RECENTLY COMPLETED BLOCKS OF THE CHEUNG CHING ESTATE.

THE ENTIRE ESTATE WILL, ON COMPLETION, PROVIDE HOMES FOR ABOUT 65,000.

EVENTUALLY, THE POPULATION OF TSING YI IS EXPECTED TO RISE FROM ITS PRESENT 9,000 TO 185,000 WITH ABOUT 150,000 ACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -