



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JULY 10, 1978

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DECISION MADE ON FUTURE USE OF VICTORIA BARRACKS

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AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF CONSIDERING THE REPORT OF THE VICTORIA BARRACKS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER VIEWS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE BARRACKS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TODAY (MONDAY) PUBLISHED PLANNING PROPOSALS ON HOW THE BARRACKS SITE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AFTER IT IS HANDED BACK BY THE ARMY NEXT MARCH AS PART OF THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE WESTERN HALF OF THE BARRACKS WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES WHILE THE EASTERN HALF WILL BE PLANNED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH ONE GOVERNMENT SITE ON THE QUEENSWAY FRONTAGE.

HE SAID THAT THE RELEASED AREA OF VICTORIA BARRACKS TOTALLED SOME 18 HECTARES, BUT PART OF IT IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE ORIGINAL PLANNING EXERCISE, BECAUSE IT WAS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE REALIGNMENT OF KENNEDY ROAD.

THE PLANNING EXERCISE THUS COVERED A TOTAL OF 16.8 HECTARES. OF THIS A TOTAL OF 9.72 HECTARES, MAINLY IN THE WESTERN END OF THE BARRACKS, WOULD BE USED FOR RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES.

NO PART OF THIS AREA WOULD BE USED FOR NEW GOVERNMENT OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY FREE OF TRAFFIC.

THIS AREA IS ABOUT ONE AND A HALF TIMES THE SIZE OF THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANIC GARDENS AND ITS USE FOR LEISURE AND RECREATION WOULD RESULT IN THE SURROUNDING DISTRICT BEING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL ENDOWED WITH AMENITY AREAS.

THE AREA IS WELL PROVIDED WITH TREES AND SHADE BUT BECAUSE OF THE HILLY TERRAIN AND THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY EXISTING BUILDINGS AND ROADWAYS, THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BARRACKS GROUNDS FOR LEISURE PURPOSES WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY AND EXPERTLY PLANNED AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO COMMISSION A SPECIAL CONSULTANTS' STUDY ON HOW IT CAN BE USED TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE, NOT ONLY BY THOSE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BUT ALSO BY PEOPLE FROM OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THE WAN CHAI END OF THE BARRACKS, WHICH IS ALREADY HEAVILY BUILT-OVER, HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR SALE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMERCIAL SITES WILL ENCIRCLE A PUBLIC SQUARE ENTERED FROM QUEENSWAY.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT TO ENSURE HARMONIOUS ARCHITECTURE THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX SHOULD PREFERABLY BE BUILT BY A SINGLE DEVELOPER, AND THAT IT SHOULD HAVE PEDESTRIAN LINKS WITH THE ADMIRALTY STATION AREA.

/SOME HILLSIDE

SOME HILLSIDE SITES AT THE SOUTH-EASTERN END OF THE BARRACKS WILL BE RESERVED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT SITE FACING QUEENSWAY WILL BE USED FOR A NEW SUPREME COURT AND ANOTHER HIGH OFFICE BUILDING. THE GOVERNMENT THINKS THIS PREFERABLE TO SITING A LARGE SECRETARIAT 'BUILDING' IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE BARRACKS, WHICH WILL BE ENTIRELY RESERVED FOR LEISURE PURPOSES.

THE FINAL PLAN ALSO PRESERVES THE CONCEPT IN THE VICTORIA BARRACKS PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO THROUGH-ROAD BISECTING THE AREA WHICH WOULD TEND TO BE USED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TRAFFIC ROUTE, AND WHICH WILL SPOIL THE AMENITY VALUE OF THE NEW PARK.

THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR TRAFFIC ACCESS INTO, AND A FLYOVER OVER, COTTON TREE DRIVE FROM THE RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE AREA.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING AREA, OR IN THE VICTORIA BARRACKS SITE, IS ANOTHER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE LOT, SHORTLY TO BE SURRENDERED, SOUTH OF KENNEDY ROAD, WHERE IT LOOPS NORTHWARDS INTO THE BARRACKS SITE.

IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT KENNEDY ROAD SHOULD BE STRAIGHTENED AT THIS POINT AND THIS COULD PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL AREA BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW ROADS. BUT THE AREA INVOLVED IS EXTREMELY STEEP AND IS MOSTLY CROWN LAND COVERED BY WOODS AND UNDERGROWTH. UNTIL, THEREFORE, IT IS KNOWN HOW AND WHEN THE STRAIGHTENED STRETCH OF ROAD WILL BE FORMED AND HOW MUCH USABLE LAND IT WILL PRODUCE, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INCORPORATE THIS AREA INTO THE PLANNING SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PICKED THE BEST FEATURES OF A NUMBER OF APPROACHES PREPARED BY THE VICTORIA BARRACKS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND HAD TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS EXPRESSED IN SOME QUARTERS THAT A REASONABLE PROPORTION OF THE LAND SHOULD BE SOLD FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE RELEASE OF LAND IN VICTORIA BARRACKS SHOULD PRODUCE BENEFITS FOR THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT LARGE AS WELL AS FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT ENJOY THE ADDITIONAL AMENITY WHICH WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT AND WAN CHAI.

+BY RESERVING SOME LAND FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BARRACKS AREA,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A SUM APPROACHING \$700 MILLION MIGHT BE RAISED IN SALES AND, BY RESITING THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING FROM THE MURRAY BARRACKS AREA TO QUEENSWAY, SITES IN THE FORMER AREA WHICH WOULD THEN BE RELEASED FOR SALE COULD RAISE AN ADDITIONAL SUM IN EXCESS OF \$400 MILLION.+

REFERRING TO THE PROPOSED CONSULTANCY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FUTURE USE OF FLAGSTAFF HOUSE, THE RETENTION OF WHICH WAS FAVOURED BY THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY.

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ADVICE WOULD BE SOUGHT ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSULTANCY IN VIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN THIS FIELD AND BECAUSE THE AREA WOULD SUPPLEMENT FACILITIES ALREADY PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL.

COMMENTING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES, EXPRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE VICTORIA BARRACKS PLANNING COMMITTEE, MANY OF WHOSE IDEAS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN EMBODIED IN THE FINAL PLAN.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT IS ALSO PUBLISHED TODAY.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED PLAN AND PRESS RELEASE ARE BEING EXHIBITED IN CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE EXISTING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR RECEIVING WATER FROM EAST RIVER.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. TOM TOMLINSON, TODAY SAID: +AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SCHEME INVOLVES THE LAYING OF A 1,600 MILLIMETRE DIAMETER PIPELINE ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING TWIN 1,200 MILLIMETRE DIAMETER PIPELINE BETWEEN THE MUK WU AND RIVER INDUS PUMPING STATIONS.

+ALSO PROVIDED WILL BE ALTERNATING LENGTHS OF 2,000 MILLIMETRE DIAMETER PIPELINE AND TUNNELS BETWEEN THE PUMPING STATION AND THE EXISTING INTAKE POINT AND TUNNEL SOUTH OF NAM CHUNG, WHICH DISCHARGES INTO THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR AT CHUNG MEI.+

THE COST OF THE PROJECT IS IN THE REGION OF \$10 MILLION, HE SAID, ADDING THAT ENGINEERING WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT MONTH.

THE NEW PIPELINE BETWEEN MUK WU AND THE PUMPING STATION IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE OCTOBER NEXT YEAR, WHILE THE WHOLE PROJECT WILL TAKE 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR. TOMLINSON SAID THE PIPELINE BETWEEN MUK WU AND THE PUMPING STATION MEASURES 2.9 KILOMETRES. PARTS OF THE PIPELINE WILL REST ON PILES AND PIERS.

THE ALTERNATING LENGTHS OF THE 2,000 MM DIAMETER PIPELINE AND TUNNELS MEASURE ABOUT TEN KILOMETRES.

+THE COMBINED CAPACITY OF THE THREE PIPELINES IS 553,000 CUBIC METRES OF WATER PER DAY,+ HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE THE WORK ON THE PROJECT, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESUME A TOTAL OF 77,190 SQUARE METRES OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FAN LING AREAS. ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OF THE LAND RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN LAST FRIDAY'S (JULY 7) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, SAID THE RESUMPTION WILL INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF 43 TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES OCCUPIED BY 32 FAMILIES. OF THE 43 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, 22 ARE ON CROWN LAND.

IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF 175 OTHER TEMPORARY STRUCTURES INCLUDING A SHOP, WORKSHOPS AQUARIUM, PIGSTIES AND POULTRY SHEDS WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED.

DEPENDING ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY, DISPLACED FAMILIES WILL BE OFFERED EITHER PUBLIC HOUSING OR TEMPORARY PUBLIC HOUSING IN FAN LING; MR. OXLEY SAID.

GENUINE CULTIVATOR FAMILIES MAY OPT FOR A RESITE ALONG WITH AN EX-GRATIA REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE OF \$5,000, BUT WILL FORFEIT THEIR PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

OWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WILL BE OFFERED LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR CASH COMPENSATION, HE ADDED.

RESULTS OF CAREERS OPINION POLL

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HONG KONG YOUNG PEOPLE RATE +INTEREST IN THE WORK ITSELF+ AND +STABILITY+ AS THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING A CAREER, ACCORDING TO A REPORT ON A CAREERS OPINION POLL PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE POLL WAS SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE AND CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL STUDIES OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

IT WAS CARRIED OUT ON 2,000 RESPONDENTS CHOSEN IN A ONE-IN-FIFTY SAMPLING OF SOME 113,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO VISITED LAST YEAR'S 10-DAY CAREERS EXHIBITION STAGED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT THE KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS IN HUNG HOM.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE YOUNG PEOPLE ATTACHED ONLY SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO +INCOME+ AND +PROSPECTS+.

NEARLY HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS WOULD PREFER TO WORK IN THE SERVICES SECTOR, WITH SOCIAL WORK, TEACHING AND NURSING BEING AMONG THE MOST POPULAR JOBS. ABOUT 30 PER CENT PREFERRED INDUSTRY, WITH THE MAJORITY OF THESE CHOOSING ELECTRONICS, MACHINE AND METAL WORKING, AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. WORKING IN COMMERCE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS LESS POPULAR.

BY OCCUPATION, 43 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS ASPIRED TO BEING SERVICE OR TECHNICAL WORKERS AND ABOUT ONE-THIRD PROFESSIONAL WORKERS.

CONCERNING THE CHOICE OF A CAREER, ABOUT HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS FELT THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS, WHILE MORE THAN ONE-THIRD WERE PREPARED TO BE INFLUENCED BY THEIR PARENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.

OF THE RESPONDENTS ALREADY WORKING, ABOUT 70 PER CENT WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOBS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION FACTORS SUCH AS NATURE OF WORK, SALARY, WORKING ENVIRONMENT, HOURS OF WORK, OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT (WELFARE, HOLIDAYS), STAFF RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS. AMONG THE FACTORS CONSIDERED, THEY WERE MORE SATISFIED WITH THEIR WORKING HOURS THAN WITH THE PROSPECTS OF THEIR JOBS.

THE POLL ALSO ATTEMPTED TO FIND OUT THE PLANS OF WOULD-BE FORM V SCHOOL LEAVERS -- WHETHER THEY PLANNED TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES OR GO INTO EMPLOYMENT. MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE STUDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY PLANNED TO CARRY ON WITH THEIR STUDIES BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO ACQUIRE MORE KNOWLEDGE AS WELL AS TO ATTAIN PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND DISLIKE OF STUDYING WERE THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE SMALL PROPORTION OF STUDENTS WHO PLANNED TO GO INTO EMPLOYMENT AFTER FORM V.

THE FINDINGS OF THE POLL ALSO RE-AFFIRMED THE VALUE OF THE ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITION. ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF THE VISITORS TO LAST YEAR'S CAREERS EXHIBITION HAD COME SPECIALLY FOR CAREERS INFORMATION AND THE MAJORITY WAS SATISFIED WITH THE WIDE RANGE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

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POLICE TEAMS POSTED AT ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC POLICE TEAMS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT ALL ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO EDUCATE PEDESTRIANS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY.

DURING THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, THESE POLICE TEAMS WILL BE OPERATING AT ALL 24 ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS WHERE WARNING SIGNS WERE ERECTED LAST WEEK. THEY WILL USE LOUDHAILERS TO URGE PEDESTRIANS TO USE ROAD CROSSING AND WARN THEM ABOUT THE DANGER OF JAY WALKING.

ROAD SAFETY LEAFLETS ADVISING PEDESTRIANS TO USE SUBWAYS AND FLYOVERS TO CROSS THE ROAD AND TO PAY ATTENTION TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PEDESTRIANS CROSSING THE ROAD AT THESE TRAFFIC BLACKSPOTS.

THE OPERATION IS PART OF AN ON-GOING ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN ON THE THEME OF +IMPATIENCE KILLS+ LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST MONTH.

IN THE CAMPAIGN WHICH AIMS AT BOTH PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS, TELEVISION COMMERCIALS, RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND POSTERS ARE ALSO USED TO BRING HOME THE ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC.

IN ADDITION ROAD SAFETY ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANISED CONCURRENTLY WITH FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGNS IN 13 DISTRICTS.

THE CAMPAIGN IN EACH DISTRICT INCLUDES ROAD SAFETY DAYS, MOBILE EXHIBITIONS, COMPETITIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT SHOWS.

IN THE CAMPAIGN POLICE INSPECTORS WILL ALSO GIVE TALKS ON ROAD SAFETY TO STUDENTS AND DRIVERS.

CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, TRAFFIC POLICE, MR. KEITH LOMAS SAID TODAY: +A RECENT SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION INDICATED THAT IMPATIENCE IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE THE MAIN CAUSE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS OR DRIVERS.+

+WE ARE TRYING IN EVERY WAY TO MAKE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY AND WE HOPE OUR EFFORTS WILL HELP CUT DOWN THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RATE,+ HE ADDED.

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 DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING VISITS PWD WORK SITES
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THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD, TODAY VISITED SOME OF THE P.W.D. WORK SITES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. WONG KWOK-CHOY, CHIEF ENGINEER, CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE- MR. AU CHI-LAU, CHIEF ENGINEER, HIGHWAYS (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISION, AND MR. LEUNG MIN-SUN, CHIEF ENGINEER, RAILWAY DIVISION.

AMONG THE PROJECTS INSPECTED WERE THE CLEARWATER BAY ROAD IMPROVEMENT, THE FIRST LION ROCK TUNNEL REFURBISHING, TEXACO ROAD/CASTLE PEAK ROAD GRADE SEPARATED INTERSECTION, BEACON HILL TUNNEL DOUBLE TRACKING AND MONGKOK RAILWAY STATION REMODELLING PHASE ONE.

THE NEW 2.3-KILOMETRE DOUBLE TRACK BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL, COSTING A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$97 MILLION, WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SINGLE TRACK TUNNEL. IT IS BEING BUILT TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING TUNNEL.

MR. STEAD SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR TUNNEL HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS.

+SO FAR, OPEN EXCAVATION NEAR THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN PORTALS HAS BEEN COMPLETED,+ HE SAID.

+AT EACH PORTAL THERE ARE TWO PILOT TUNNELS EACH MEASURING ABOUT 3.5 METRES BY 4 METRES IN SIZE. ABOUT 200 METRES OF TUNNEL HAVE BEEN DRILLED AT THE SOUTHERN PORTAL IN KOWLOON TONG AND 36 METRES AT THE NORTHERN PORTAL.+

MR. STEAD ADDED THAT THE TUNNEL, DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY MID-1980, WOULD BE LINED THROUGHOUT WITH CONCRETE VARYING IN THICKNESS FROM 550 MM NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO 300 MM OVER MOST OF ITS LENGTH.

+THE ROUTE FOR THE TUNNEL WILL IMPROVE THE ALIGNMENT OF THE KCR AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE RAILWAY, PARTICULARLY FOR GOODS TRAFFIC,+ HE REMARKED.

EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR VISITED THE SITE OF THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR FLYOVER COMPLEX AT THE JUNCTION OF TEXACO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

WORK IS IN PROGRESS ON THE FOUNDATION AND RETAINING WALL FOR THE FLYOVER.

THE 230-METRE-LONG FLYOVER WILL CARRY FOUR LANES OF TRAFFIC OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD WHILE THE SLIP ROADS WILL LINK CASTLE PEAK ROAD WITH TEXACO ROAD AND KWOK SHUI ROAD.

ALSO INSPECTED TODAY WAS THE REFURBISHING WORK BEING CARRIED OUT AT THE FIRST LION ROCK TUNNEL.

THE WORK INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TWO APPROACH ROADS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE VENTILATION AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS.

MR. STEAD SAID THAT ALL THE WORKS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER AND THE TUNNEL WOULD BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC SOON AFTERWARDS.

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REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS
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RATEPAYERS WERE TODAY REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30 MUST BE PAID BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE SHOULD APPROACH THE RATES SECTION OF THE TREASURY AT ROOM 203, HANG CHONG BUILDING, 5, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

+NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 P.M. ON JULY 31,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE WILL BE IMPOSED IF THE RATES ARE NOT PAID BY THAT DATE.

A FURTHER TEN PER CENT SURCHARGE MAY BE ADDED TO AMOUNTS, INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE, WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

RATEPAYERS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE 'TOTAL AMOUNT NOW DUE' BOX.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE RATING ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES, UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER BY POST TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUING. IF THEY ARE PAYING IN PERSON THEY ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO EARLY AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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CALL FOR EARLY RETURN OF EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CARDS
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY URGED MANAGERMENTS OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED FOR THE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY CARDS TO THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE SURVEY CARDS WERE FIRST SENT TO ABOUT 16,700 SELECTED MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS LAST MONTH FOR INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES AS AT JUNE 15. THE CARDS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UP TO NOW, ABOUT 11,000 ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE NOT YET RETURNED THEIR SURVEY CARDS.

+INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE SURVEY WILL PROVIDE ESSENTIAL DATA FOR ANALYSING EMPLOYMENT LEVELS AND TRENDS IN VARIOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+PROMPT REPORTING FROM MANAGERMENTS WILL AVOID FURTHER FOLLOW-UPS AND FACILITATE THE EARLY RELEASE OF SURVEY RESULTS,+ HE ADDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CARRYING OUT AN EMPLOYMENT SURVEY ON THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, BANKS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, AND OTHER SELECTED TRADES AND SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN APPEALED TO ALL THE SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE SURVEY. HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

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NEW HOME FOR THE AGED TO OPEN THIS YEAR

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A \$3 MILLION HOME FOR THE AGED IN CLEARWATER BAY -- A PROJECT DESIGNED TO MEET THE INCREASING NEED FOR INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

MR. LEE SAID AT THE FOUNDATION STONE-LAYING CEREMONY, THERE WAS GROWING DEMAND FOR MORE RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR THE AGED, PARTICULARLY CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES.

THE NEW HOME WOULD HELP EASE THE DEMAND FOR SUCH FACILITIES WHEN IT BECAME OPERATIONAL.

THE HO KING HOME FOR THE AGED IS A PROJECT OF THE BUDDHIST CHARITABLE ORGANISATION, SIK SIK YUEN, FINANCED PARTIALLY WITH A \$1 MILLION GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND MADE THROUGH THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

COVERING A SITE OF OVER 54,000 SQ. FT. ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN TAI AU MUN, THE NEW HOME WOULD PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AS WELL AS GENERAL AND NURSING CARE FOR 100 AGED WOMEN BY OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

MR. LEE PAID TRIBUTE TO SIK SIK YUEN FOR PROVIDING COMMUNITY SERVICES SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN 1921.

+IT IS COMMENDABLE THAT SIK SIK YUEN, KEEPING IN LINE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL SPIRIT, HAS NOW EXTENDED ITS SERVICES TO THE FIELD OF WELFARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

+IT STARTED RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT AS EARLY AS IN 1972. NOW WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SITE ALLOCATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT THE NEW HOME, A TWO-STOREY BUILDING WITH BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS, IS TO BECOME A REALITY, + HE SAID.

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PART-TIME EVENING COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

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ABOUT 30,000 PEOPLE HAVE APPLIED TO ATTEND PART-TIME EVENING CLASSES IN MORE THAN 60 COURSES DUE TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER AT HONG KONG'S FOUR TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS.

THIS IS 14 PER CENT MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

THE 66 COURSES COVER 10 DISCIPLINES -- CLOTHING INDUSTRIES= COMMERCIAL STUDIES= CONSTRUCTION= ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING= GENERAL STUDIES= HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM= MARINE AND FABRICATION= MECHANICAL ENGINEERING= PRINTING= AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES -- TO BE CONDUCTED AT POST-FORM 5 TECHNICIAN LEVEL AND POST-FORM 3 CRAFT LEVEL.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED BY POST THIS WEEK.

THE RATIO OF THE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TO THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IS ABOUT 4 TO 1, BUT FOR A FEW POPULAR COURSES, THE RATIO EXCEEDS 10 TO 1.

APPLICANTS FOR TECHNICIAN LEVEL COURSES WHO SAT THE 1978 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A SELECTION INTERVIEW SHORTLY AFTER THEIR EXAMINATION RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED.

APPLICATIONS FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME DAY RELEASE COURSES AT THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL BE INVITED LATER THIS MONTH AND A SECOND ENROLMENT FOR A FEW HALF-YEARLY COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN LATE DECEMBER.

IF SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, APPLICATIONS WILL BE INVITED IN OCTOBER FOR MORE THAN 80 SHORT COURSES DESIGNED TO MEET THE DEMAND OF LOCAL INDUSTRY.

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