



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVT SUPPORTS C&W/TELCO MERGER	1
COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SEES SEMICONDUCTORS PRODUCTION	2
CALL TO OBSERVE SAFETY AT WORK	2
TUEN MUN DB TO DISCUSS PROPOSED POWERLINE	3
WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS TAXI POLICY REVIEW	4
TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS	5
CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC AND CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE FOR SHA TIN	5
RECLAMATION WORK PROPOSED AT AP LEI CHAU	6
KOWLOON EAST WATER CUT	6
WATER FIGURE	6

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1987

- 1 -

GOVT SUPPORTS C&W/TELCO MERGER

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AS MINORITY SHAREHOLDER OF CABLE AND WIRELESS (HONG KONG) LTD. (C&W(HK)), HAS AGREED WITH CABLE AND WIRELESS PLC, (C&W PLC) TO SUPPORT A MERGER OF C&W(HK) AND THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED (TELCO) ON THE TERMS SET OUT IN THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE BOARDS OF C&W PLC. AND TELCO TODAY (MONDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS OF C&W PLC TO RE-ORGANISE ITS INTERESTS IN HONG KONG THROUGH A MERGER OF C&W(HK) AND TELCO, THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HOLDS A 20 PER CENT SHAREHOLDING IN C&W(HK) AS AN EXCHANGE FUND INVESTMENT, HAS APPOINTED BARING BROTHERS ASIA LIMITED (BARINGS) TO ADVISE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS ON ITS SHAREHOLDING IN C&W(HK).

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BARINGS ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT THE MERGER.

IN SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED MERGER, THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT IT REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IT TO EXCHANGE ITS INVESTMENT IN A PRIVATE COMPANY, C&W(HK), FOR A MARKETABLE INVESTMENT IN A LISTED COMPANY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "IT IS INTENDED THAT, FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MERGER AND SUBJECT TO MARKET CONDITIONS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TOGETHER WITH A SUBSIDIARY OF C&W PLC OFFER FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC APPROXIMATELY 11 PER CENT OF THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF THE NEW COMPANY EARLY NEXT YEAR, WITH EACH PARTY SELLING AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SHARES."

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO APPOINT BARINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER FOR SALE. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD APPROXIMATELY 5.5 PER CENT OF THE NEW COMPANY WHICH IT INTENDS TO RETAIN FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS THEREAFTER.

"THE INTENTION TO DISPOSE OF SHARES IN THE NEW COMPANY IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY IN RESPECT OF THE EQUITY INVESTMENTS OF THE EXCHANGE FUND AS STATED BY THE THEN FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN 1986 IN CONCLUDING THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EXISTING CONTROLS EXERCISED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OVER THE OPERATION OF TELCO AND CWHK WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY EITHER THE PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION OR THE DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT'S SHAREHOLDING IN CWHK.

"THE SEPARATION FROM TELCO OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANY WILL FACILITATE THE GOVERNMENT'S MONITORING OF THOSE EXCLUSIVE SERVICES OF TELCO SUBJECT TO THE SCHEME OF CONTROL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO APPOINT TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF CWHK AND TELCO RESPECTIVELY.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1987

- 2 -

COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SEES SEMICONDUCTORS PRODUCTION
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TOOK A LOOK AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY DURING HIS VISIT TO THE MOTOROLA SEMICONDUCTORS HONG KONG LTD IN KWAI CHUNG.

FOLLOWING A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COMPANY'S ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION, MR C.D. TAM, AND OTHER SENIOR PERSONNEL, MR HAMMOND WAS TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE PLANT WHICH DEVELOPS NOT ONLY NEW APPLICATION-ORIENTED IC BUT ALSO PROVIDES QUICK RESPONSE AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CUSTOMERS' NEW PRODUCT NEEDS.

HE ALSO VISITED THE TRAINING CENTRE WHICH ORGANISES SPECIALISED COURSES FOR VARIOUS LEVELS OF EMPLOYEES ON A REGULAR BASIS.

MR HAMMOND WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE COMPANY HAD TAKEN A POSITIVE LEAD TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY. AN IN-PLANT SAFETY COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVE FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS AND LEVELS HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE FACTORY AND MEETS FAIRLY FREQUENTLY TO DISCUSS MATTERS CONCERNING SAFETY AND HEALTH.

MR HAMMOND CONCLUDED HIS VISIT WITH A ROUND-UP SESSION WITH THE MANAGEMENT.

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CALL TO OBSERVE SAFETY AT WORK
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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CAN BE PREVENTED IF WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ARE WILLING TO OBSERVE BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, MR KWOK NOTED THAT 593 INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 736 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING MACHINERY IN THE INDUSTRY ALSO DROPPED - FROM 237 IN THE FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR TO 173 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF MINOR ACCIDENTS, SUCH AS STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECT AND HANDLING WITHOUT MACHINERY, REGISTERED AN INCREASE.

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"OUR INFORMATION SHOWS THAT MANY OF THESE ACCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES," MR KOWK SAID.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL THEREFORE FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO CONTINUE TO TAKE NECESSARY SAFETY STEPS AND OBSERVE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS SO AS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS," HE ADDED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR K.Y. TONGSON.

HE SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS PLANNING A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE SAFETY AT WORK IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THESE INCLUDE THE PUBLICATION OF A GUIDE BOOK WITH CARTOON ILLUSTRATIONS DEPICTING SAFETY REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS, A PAMPHLET ON THE SAFE USE OF CHEMICALS FOR WORKERS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY, AND A SEMINAR FOR WORKERS.

TODAY'S SEMINAR, THE THIRD ORGANISED BY THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE, WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 140 MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND FEATURED A FILM SHOW AND GROUP DISCUSSION.

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TUEN MUN DB TO DISCUSS PROPOSED POWERLINE

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED'S PROPOSAL TO RUN AN OVERHEAD POWERLINE FROM YUEN LONG TO LAI CHI KOK.

AS PART OF THE EXPANSION OF THE ELECTRICITY NETWORK IN THE 1990'S, THE COMPANY IS PLANNING TO INSTALL A HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE TO CONNECT THE EXISTING SUB-STATIONS AT YUEN LONG AND LAI CHI KOK, THUS AFFECTING PART OF TUEN MUN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE SURVEY ON TUEN MUN RESIDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION; CURRENT SITUATION OF DISPLAY BOARDS AND PUBLICITY ITEMS IN TUEN MUN; POLICY, STRATEGY AND PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT; AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE OPEN CHANNEL AT TAI LAM CHUNG.

AN APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR THE 1987 TUEN MUN DISTRICT FESTIVAL AND ERECTION OF IRON RAILINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

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- 4 -

REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LRT SERVICE, DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RESPECTIVE DB COMMITTEES WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 3/F, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS TAXI POLICY REVIEW

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE TAXI POLICY REVIEW.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR R.G. SOURFIELD, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE DOCUMENT AND HEAR MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE ISSUE.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH AND THE POLICE WILL REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION ABOUT POLICE ACTION AGAINST MAHJONG-PLAYING IN FRATERNITY ASSOCIATIONS.

SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN, AND REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR T.H. CHAU, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE DISBURSMENT OF WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AT TUNG WAH MANSION, 8TH FLOOR, 210 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1987

- 5 -

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATIONS BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY AND THE STAR FERRY COMPANY FOR A FRANCHISE TO OPERATE A FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND WAN CHAI.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE UPDATED ON THE CONSULTATIONS WITH DISTRICT BOARDS CONCERNING TAXI POLICY REVIEW.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAMWAY ORDINANCE.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING) AT 2.30 PM.

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CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC AND
CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE FOR SHA TIN
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GOVERNMENT IS TO BUILD A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC AND CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AT NGAN SHING STREET, SHA TIN.

THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A DENTAL CLINIC FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE DENTAL TREATMENT CUBICLES, X-RAY AND DARK ROOMS, PLASTER AND SURGICAL UNITS, OFFICES, ASSESSMENT ROOMS AND PUBLIC AREAS.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE PREMISES WILL BE NAMED AFTER LADY YOUDE, WIFE OF FORMER GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN 12 MONTHS.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING WHICH IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 6.

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RECLAMATION WORK PROPOSED AT AP LEI CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO GRANT BY TENDER ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY A SITE TO BE RECLAIMED AT THE FORESHORE AND SEABED AT AP LEI CHAU WEST.

UNDER THE TENANCY TERMS, THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE WITHIN 18 MONTHS RECLAMATION OF 3,200 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FOR HANDLING AGGREGATE AND CEMENT, INCLUDING BATCHING READY MIXED CONCRETE.

THE SITE WILL EVENTUALLY BE USED FOR HANDLING BUILDING MATERIALS AS SPECIFIED IN THE AP LEI CHAU SOUTH AND ABERDEEN CHANNEL OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE TENANCY WOULD BE GRANTED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AFFECTED AREA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WORK SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY DECEMBER 15.

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KOWLOON EAST WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL BE TURNED OFF ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 22) FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED WILL BE AT KWUN TONG, SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN, NGAU TAU KOK, CHOI WAN ESTATE, FUNG SHING STREET, NGAU CHI WAN STREET, CHEUNG YIP STREET, LAM CHAK STREET, KAI HING STREET AND CHA KWO LING ROAD.

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WATER FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 69.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 409.820 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 395.650 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 67.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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