



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974

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SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL LINK-UP SET FOR MONDAY

EXCITEMENT IS MOUNTING AMONG WORKERS AT THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL THIS WEEKEND AS THE MOMENT FOR THE BREAK-THROUGH OF THE TUNNEL APPROACHES.

THE BREAK-THROUGH HAS BEEN TIMED FOR 11.30 A.M. ON MONDAY (APRIL 29), WHEN THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID McDONALD, WILL PRESS A BUTTON TO DETONATE THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE. THE CEREMONY WILL ALSO INCLUDE A LION DANCE AND A GOOD LUCK RITE.

WORK ON THIS \$29 MILLION WATERWORKS OFFICE PROJECT STARTED 10-1/2 MONTHS AGO AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY JULY NEXT YEAR, WHEN TWO FIVE-FOOT DIAMETER WATER MAIN PIPES WILL HAVE BEEN LAID IN THE BASE OF THE TUNNEL, WHICH IS NEARLY A MILE LONG.

THESE PIPES WILL THEN BEGIN TO CARRY TO THE URBAN AREAS OF KOWLOON THE ADDITIONAL WATER MADE AVAILABLE BY THE RAISING OF THE PLOVER COVE DAM. THE FOLLOWING YEAR THE FIRST WATER TO FLOW FROM THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR WILL GO THROUGH THE SAME PIPES.

WHEN THE WATERWORKS SIDE OF THE TUNNEL IS COMPLETED NEXT SUMMER, P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE WILL TAKE OVER TO SUPERVISE THE ROAD-LAYING STAGE, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER A SEPARATE CONTRACT. THIS WORK IS EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

THE TWO EXTRA TRAFFIC LANES IN THE SECOND TUNNEL WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN GENERAL AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHATIN NEW TOWN IN PARTICULAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATERWORKS OFFICE SAID TODAY THAT WORK ON EXCAVATING THE TUNNEL HAD GONE WELL AND WAS ON SCHEDULE, DESPITE DIFFICULT SECTIONS OF ROCK AND SOIL AND THE NECESSITY TO RESTRICT BLASTING SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE EXISTING TUNNEL COULD NOT BE IMPAIRED.

+A BREAK-THROUGH IS TRADITIONALLY THE CLIMACTIC AND MOST EXCITING OCCASION IN TUNNELLING,+ HE ADDED. +AND THIS TUNNEL IS NO EXCEPTION. WE'RE VERY PLEASED AT THE WAY WORK HAS GONE.+

THE CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THIS WATERWORKS PROJECT IS THE SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'ENTREPRISES DE DRAGAGES ET DE TRAVAUX PUBLICS OF MARSEILLES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE BREAK-THROUGH CEREMONY. TRANSPORT TO THE TUNNEL WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD. BUSES WILL LEAVE FOR THE TUNNEL AT 10.30 A.M. FOR JOURNALISTS USING THEIR OWN TRANSPORT A SKETCH SHOWING THE PARKING ARRANGEMENTS IS BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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INCIDENCE OF MEASLES SHOWS SLIGHT DROP

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HEALTH RETURNS FOR MARCH ISSUED TODAY BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT 13 CHILDREN DIED FROM MEASLES, A SLIGHT INCREASE COMPARED WITH THE 10 DEATHS RECORDED IN FEBRUARY.

BUT NOTIFICATIONS OF MEASLES DURING THE MONTH DROPPED TO 349, COMPARED WITH 367 IN JANUARY AND 384 IN FEBRUARY.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN SAID THEY SHOWED THAT THE CURRENT ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN WAS PRODUCING A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE -- BUT THERE WAS STILL NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

+AS ALREADY ANNOUNCED, THE ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN IS CONTINUING UNTIL THE END OF MAY, + HE SAID. +FREE VACCINE IS AVAILABLE AT ALL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES, NOT ONLY DURING THIS EXTENDED CAMPAIGN PERIOD, BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

+PARENTS OF SUSCEPTIBLE CHILDREN BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND FIVE YEARS SHOULD HAVE THEM IMMUNISED.+

OF THE 119 OTHER DEATHS RECORDED DURING MARCH, 111 WERE CAUSED BY TUBERCULOSIS -- A DROP FROM THE 132 DEATHS FROM THE SAME DISEASE IN FEBRUARY -- ONE BY AMOEBIASIS, ONE BY BACILLARY DYSENTERY, TWO BY CHICKENPOX, ONE BY VIRAL HEPATITIS, AND THREE BY TETANUS.

THERE WERE 151 NOTIFICATIONS OF CHICKENPOX, A RISE FROM THE 140 CASES RECORDED IN FEBRUARY. NOTIFICATIONS OF BACILLARY DYSENTERY DROPPED, FROM THE 25 CASES RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH, TO 23.

NO CASES OF DIPHTHERIA OR POLIOMYELITIS WERE RECORDED, AND THE INCIDENCE OF OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SHOWED NO APPRECIABLE VARIATION.

DURING THE MONTH, HONG KONG REMAINED FREE FROM CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

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CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD CLEARWAY HOURS REVISED

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE CLEARWAY HOURS ON CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND HING WAH STREET IN KOWLOON WILL BE REVISED FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (APRIL 30).

THE NEW CLEARWAY HOURS ON THIS STRETCH OF CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WILL BE FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND FROM 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO STOP TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS DURING THESE HOURS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO INDICATE THE REVISED CLEARWAY HOURS.

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COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY VISIT

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A HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON ON MONDAY (APRIL 29) TO TAKE PART IN A COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION.

THE DELEGATION COMPRISES UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS. JOYCE SYMONS AND MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE VISIT WILL LAST FROM APRIL 30 TO MAY 17 AND WILL BRING TOGETHER SOME 24 MEMBERS FROM ABOUT 17 BRANCHES FROM AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT AND TO SEE SOMETHING OF MODERN BRITAIN AS WELL AS TO ENABLE THEM TO GAIN WIDER EXPERIENCE OF THE OUTLOOK OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES FROM DISCUSSIONS AND INFORMAL CONTACT WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES.

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE PROGRAMME WILL BE A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ON CURRENT COMMONWEALTH TOPICS WHICH IT IS EXPECTED WILL BE INTRODUCED BY BRITISH MINISTERS AND ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF ALL PARTIES WHO WILL TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

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AIR MAIL TO CANADA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

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THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NO POSTAL ITEM FOR DESPATCH BY AIR-MAIL TO CANADA WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE NATIONWIDE POSTAL STRIKE IN CANADA.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL SAID TODAY THAT, DUE TO THE STRIKE, THE CANADIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT AIR-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

AIR-MAIL LETTERS AND PARCELS POSTED IN HONG KONG FROM APRIL 15 ONWARDS, HE ADDED, WERE ALSO LIKELY TO BE DELAYED.

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INTER-INSTITUTION SPEECH COMPETITION

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BOYS AND GIRLS OF SEVEN WELFARE AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING TWO RUN BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, WILL TAKE PART IN AN INTER-INSTITUTION SPEECH COMPETITION WHICH WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY (APRIL 30) AT THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE IN TWO GROUPS - 'A' GROUP AND 'B' GROUP. THE FORMER IS FOR THOSE WITH AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF PRIMARY 5 OR ABOVE WHILE THE LATTER IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT STUDIED BEYOND PRIMARY 5. EACH INSTITUTION WILL SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH GROUP.

THE TWO WELFARE INSTITUTIONS ARE THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE AND THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES. THE OTHER FIVE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, THE MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME AND THE KWUN TONG HOSTEL, ALL OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

PRIZES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY MR. WILFRED WONG, JR., THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE AND MRS. C.K. LO, ITS CHAIRMAN.

THE PANEL OF JUDGES WILL INCLUDE DR. CHUNG CHI-YUNG, PRINCIPAL OF SHUE YAN COLLEGE, MR. HO HOK-CHIM, A RETIRED TEACHER AND MR. LEUNG KA-WING, CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE.

THIS COMPETITION IS ONE OF THE ANNUAL SERIES OF ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE INTER-INSTITUTION ACTIVITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MR. K.W. LEUNG, SUPERINTENDENT OF KWUN TONG HOSTEL AND THE COMMITTEE'S SECRETARY, SAID ALL SUPERINTENDENTS OR WARDENS OF THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS SERVE AS THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHILE THE PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS) IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IS THE ADVISER.

THE COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND ORGANISING VARIOUS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR HEALTHY AND MEANINGFUL CULTURAL COMPETITIONS OR ATHLETIC EVENTS, INCLUDING A SPORTS MEET EACH YEAR FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS BEING UNDER CARE OF THE INSTITUTIONS, HE EXPLAINED.

THIS IS TO BRING THEM TOGETHER, TO ENHANCE THEIR MENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING, AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

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NEARLY 800 WORKING DAYS LOST IN JAN-MARCH
FIGURE LOW COMPARED WITH OTHER AREAS

SIX STOPPAGES OF WORK INVOLVING 487 INDUSTRIAL WORKERS WERE REPORTED TO THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

THE HEAD OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE, MR. TSUI TIM-FOOK, SAID TODAY ALL THE DISPUTES HAD BEEN SETTLED. THEY HAD RESULTED IN A LOSS OF 799 WORKING DAYS.

MR. TSUI SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD ISSUED FIGURES ON INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THIS FORM. IN DOING SO, IT WAS BRINGING ITS PRACTICE IN THE PUBLISHING OF DISPUTES FIGURES INTO LINE WITH THAT USED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ELSEWHERE. HE SAID THE METHOD AIMED AT CALCULATING THE IMPACT OF STOPPAGES IN TERMS OF WORKERS INVOLVED AND WORKING DAYS LOST.

THE TERM +STOPPAGES+ COVERED ALL STOPPAGES OF WORK, WHETHER DUE TO STRIKE OR LOCKOUT, WHICH RELATED TO DISPUTES CONNECTED WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

+IN KEEPING WITH OVERSEAS PRACTICE, ALL STOPPAGES INVOLVING TEN OR MORE WORKERS AND LASTING A DAY OR MORE ARE CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID. +STOPPAGES INVOLVING FEWER THAN TEN WORKERS OR LASTING LESS THAN ONE DAY ARE INCLUDED IF THE AGGREGATE OF WORKING DAYS LOST EXCEEDS 100.

+WORKING ON THIS BASIS, THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN HONG KONG FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS IS 9,338. OF COURSE THE FIGURES FLUCTUATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND QUARTER TO QUARTER, AND IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER THE FIGURE CAN BE DISTORTED BY ONE MAJOR STOPPAGE.

+BUT LAST QUARTER'S FIGURES OF 799 WORKING DAYS LOST MUST BE CONSIDERED AS VERY LOW.+

MR. TSUI POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S RECORD OF STOPPAGES WAS VERY GOOD. LAST YEAR ONLY 40 WORKING DAYS WERE LOST PER 1,000 EMPLOYEES.

+IN FACT, HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE FIVE INDUSTRIALISED TERRITORIES IN THE WORLD WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR LOW RATIO OF WORKING DAYS LOST THROUGH INDUSTRIAL ACTION,+ MR. TSUI SAID. +THE OTHER FOUR COUNTRIES ARE SWITZERLAND, WEST GERMANY, SINGAPORE AND SWEDEN.+

MR. TSUI SAID THAT THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE WOULD IN FUTURE ISSUE STOPPAGE FIGURES ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

/HE ADDED [REDACTED].....

HE ADDED THAT DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HAD HANDLED SOME 1,500 MINOR GRIEVANCES, MAINLY INVOLVING INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES. DURING THE PERIOD, 379 OF THESE PROBLEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

IN ADDITION TO CONCILIATION WORK, HIS OFFICERS HAD HANDLED 6,893 CONSULTATIONS AND ENQUIRIES FROM BOTH WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT DURING THE QUARTER.

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MORE USE IMPROVED MID-LEVELS BUS SERVICE

THERE HAS BEEN A 15 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS BEING CARRIED ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT THROUGH THE MID-LEVELS AREA SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TRAFFIC SCHEME ALMOST TWO WEEKS AGO.

FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REVEAL THAT AN AVERAGE OF 65,000 PEOPLE A DAY ARE NOW USING BUSES WHICH PASS THROUGH THE NEW BUS PRIORITY SCHEME.

EIGHT BUS ROUTES OPERATE WITHIN OR THROUGH THIS PART OF THE MID-LEVELS.

SINCE THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND CMB HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

AS A RESULT, A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IS TO BE MADE TO THE RECENTLY INTRODUCED ROUTE 23B FROM PARK ROAD TO NORTH POINT.

FROM MONDAY (APRIL 29), EASTBOUND BUSES ON JOURNEYS TO NORTH POINT WILL OPERATE VIA GARDEN ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET AND CHATER ROAD. AT PRESENT THEY TRAVEL VIA GARDEN ROAD, JACKSON ROAD AND THE EASTERN END OF CHATER ROAD.

THE CHANGE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER SERVICE THROUGH THE HEART OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT FOR PASSENGERS ALONG THE EASTERN SECTION OF CAINE ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, BY OPERATING ALONG PEDDER STREET AND THE WESTERN SECTION OF CHATER ROAD, ROUTE 23B WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL FACILITY BETWEEN CENTRAL AND NORTH POINT VIA HENNESSY ROAD.

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