



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT REVEALS DETAILS OF TRANSPORT PLAN FOR
ISLAND CORRIDOR

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES, TODAY (FRIDAY) REVEALED MORE DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S SHORT AND LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSPORT SITUATION IN THE ISLAND CORRIDOR, WHICH HE SPOKE ABOUT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY.

MR. JONES TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE IMMEDIATE TASK WAS TO GET UNDERWAY A SERIES OF DETAILED FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES.

HE SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THESE STUDIES WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT JOINTLY BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THEY WOULD BE CO-ORDINATED BY A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

+WHILE THE STUDIES ARE BEING CONDUCTED, AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THEIR CONFIRMING THAT THE STRATEGY IS FEASIBLE IN DETAIL, I WILL OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY WITH A VIEW TO THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISING ITS RIGHT UNDER SECTION 30 OF THE TRAMWAYS ORDINANCE TO PURCHASE THE TRAMWAY, +MR. JONES SAID.

+THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL COVER THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES, THE COST OF ACQUIRING THE RELEVANT ASSETS OF THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY, AND THE POSITION OF THE COMPANY'S STAFF.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PROPOSE TO ACQUIRE THE TRAM DEPOT IN SHARP STREET EAST SINCE IT WAS NOT NEEDED FOR THE NEW LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM.

MR. JONES SAID ASSUMING THAT THE DETAILED ISSUES OF IMPLEMENTATION WERE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, AND ALSO ASSUMING THAT THE BOARD OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AGREED TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE THE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM, THE NEW VEHICLES COULD BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG WITHIN THREE YEARS.

+THIS MEANS THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY PROCEED SATISFACTORILY, THESE MODERN, SINGLE-DECKED, ARTICULATED VEHICLES COULD BE IN OPERATION BY MID-1981,+ HE SAID.

BY THIS TIME, ALSO, A GREAT DEAL OF THE SEGREGATED RIGHT OF WAY REQUIRED TO EXPLOIT THE POTENTIAL OF THE LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES WOULD BE IN EXISTENCE, TAKING THE FORM OF FENCES, RAISED KERBS, FLYOVERS AND SPECIAL PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FACILITIES, HE SAID. THIS TIMING EMPHASISED A MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF THE STRATEGY, NAMELY THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE CORRIDOR.

/+AT THE SAME

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+AT THE SAME TIME AS THE NEW LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES ARE BEING ORDERED, SPECIAL TUNNELS FOR THEM WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT CHAI WAN AND BETWEEN ADMIRALTY AND CHATER/PEDDER STATIONS OF THE MTR,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+THIS LATTER TUNNEL WILL PROVIDE A GOOD INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MTR AND THE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM. BY 1982 THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION OF THE MTR WILL ALSO BE IN OPERATION AND THIS WILL RESULT IN AN INTEGRATED, RAIL-BASED SYSTEM STRETCHING FROM TSUEN WAN TO CHAI WAN.+

MR. JONES SAID THAT DURING THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ON WHETHER TO BUILD THE TUNNELS AT CHAI WAN AND AT CENTRAL TO THE DIMENSIONS NECESSARY TO TAKE THE BIGGER MTR COACHES. +IF THE DECISION TO DO SO WERE TAKEN, THEN, WHEN THE SYSTEM WENT FULLY UNDERGROUND, IT COULD CARRY 60,000 PASSENGERS AN HOUR IN EACH DIRECTION -- BY CONTRAST WITH THE EXISTING TRAMWAY'S MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 8,000 PASSENGERS AN HOUR,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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ASSESSORS TO SIT WITH MAGISTRATES IN
ADVISORY CAPACITY PROPOSED

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A BILL DESIGNED TO ENABLE MAGISTRATES TO HEAR AND DECIDE ON CASES WITH THE ADVICE OF LAY ASSESSORS WHO ARE LOCAL PEOPLE, NOT QUALIFIED IN LAW, BUT FLUENT IN CANTONESE AND ENGLISH, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THESE LAY ASSESSORS PROPOSED UNDER THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, WOULD BE GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH CHINESE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND INVOLVED AT ALL STAGES OF CASES COMING BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES WITH WHOM THEY WERE SITTING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE WOULD VERY OFTEN HELP THEM TO FOLLOW EVIDENCE DIRECTLY -- THOUGH THE COURT INTERPRETATION WOULD OF COURSE REMAIN PARAMOUNT -- AND ALSO TO FOLLOW DIRECTLY REPRESENTATIONS AND POINTS BEING MADE BY UNREPRESENTED DEFENDANTS.

THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN ASSESSING THE CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES AND BE EXPECTED TO PUT FORWARD TO MAGISTRATES VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ABOUT PARTICULAR OFFENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF SENTENCING.

THEIR ROLE AS ADVISERS TO MAGISTRATES WOULD MEAN THAT THEY WOULD NOT THEMSELVES PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDINGS, UNLESS INVITED TO DO SO BY A MAGISTRATE.

/GENERALLY,

GENERALLY, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WAS SUCH AS TO PERMIT MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NEW IDEA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE BILL HAD BEEN DRAFTED IN GENERAL TERMS TO ENABLE IT TO BE APPLIED FLEXIBLY ON THE DIRECTIONS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

+IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE WILL ARRANGE FOR AN ASSESSOR TO SIT WITH ALL EXPATRIATE MAGISTRATES DURING THEIR FIRST TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID AN ASSESSOR WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADVISE THE MAGISTRATE, WHO WOULD NOT BE BOUND HOWEVER TO ACCEPT THE ADVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ASSESSORS WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FROM A PANEL APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

HE SAID A TENTATIVE LIST OF POTENTIAL LAY ASSESSORS HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS TOTALLING 354 PERSONS, OF WHOM 62 WERE UNOFFICIAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, 94 WERE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT BOARDS OR COMMITTEES, 143 WERE PERSONS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND 55 WERE MEMBERS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

HE SAID THE LIST EXCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND URBAN COUNCILS AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION. IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT THE LIST MIGHT BE EXTENDED AT A LATER DATE IF THE SCHEME WAS TO BE EXPANDED TO COVER PERSONS ON THE LIST OF JURORS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. IF AN ASSESSOR WAS ABSENT DURING A TRIAL THE MAGISTRATE COULD STILL HEAR THE CASE.

THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE RELATING TO COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHERE, ONCE COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS HAD STARTED, IT WAS DESIRABLE TO USE WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES' EVIDENCE RATHER THAN CALL THEM TO GIVE EVIDENCE ORALLY.

BUT A RULE REQUIRING DELIVERY OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS 10 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE FIXED FOR THE HEARING PREVENTED THIS, WHICH HAD SOMETIMES RESULTED IN PROCEEDINGS BEING UNNECESSARILY PROLONGED.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENT PROVIDED THAT, WHERE WRITTEN STATEMENTS WERE TO BE TENDERED IN COURT BY THE PROSECUTOR, COPIES MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE MAGISTRATE AND THE ACCUSED 10 DAYS PRIOR TO TENDERING. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT STATEMENTS COULD NOW BE TENDERED WHILE COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS WERE IN PROGRESS.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT WILL MEAN THAT MINOR DEVIATIONS FROM PROCEDURE WILL NOT RENDER WRITTEN STATEMENTS INADMISSIBLE.

AT PRESENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ANY VARIATION OF PROCEDURE HAD THIS EFFECT AND COULD RESULT IN COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS HAVING TO BE STARTED AFRESH.

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STAFF MOVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, LEFT HONG KONG YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE. HE IS DUE TO RETURN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO TAKE UP THE POST OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (MANAGEMENT), MR. HUGH ARDLEY, WILL ACT AS SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION.

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. DAVID JEAFFRESON, GOES ON LEAVE NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 11). DURING HIS ABSENCE, MR. DAVID T.K. WONG, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, WILL ACT AS SECRETARY.

IN OTHER SENIOR STAFF MOVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR. A.D. OCKENDEN, CEASED TO BE COMMISSIONER WITH EFFECT FROM YESTERDAY ON COMPLETION OF HIS AGREEMENT. HE IS TAKING UP A JOB WITH THE MONETARY AUTHORITY IN SWAZILAND. MR. C.D.W. MARTIN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, WILL ACT AS COMMISSIONER.

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WIDER RANGE OF LUCKY CAR NUMBERS NOW AVAILABLE
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MOTORISTS CAN NOW BID FOR A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS UNDER NEW REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

THE NEW REGULATIONS, KNOWN AS THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1978 WERE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PREVIOUSLY ONLY SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBERS LISTED IN THE SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS WERE CONSIDERED LUCKY AND SOLD BY AUCTION.

BUT UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS EMPOWERED TO SELL BY AUCTION AT A RESERVE PRICE OF \$1,000 ANY NON-SCHEDULED NUMBER APPLIED FOR OR WHICH THE COMMISSIONER CONSIDERS SUITABLE FOR AUCTION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS STEM FROM FREQUENT REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR REGISTRATION NUMBERS WHICH WERE NOT ON THE LIST OF LUCKY NUMBERS, SUCH AS THOSE WITH A COMBINATION OF NUMBERS WHICH MEAN LUCK OR PROSPERITY, OR COINCIDING WITH THEIR HOUSE NUMBERS OR THE MODEL OF THEIR CARS.

AS A RESULT OF THE NEW REGULATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN NOW APPLY FOR ANY NUMBER AS YET UNASSIGNED IN THE CURRENT SERIES BY PAYING A DEPOSIT OF \$1,000.

THE NUMBER WILL THEN BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION AND IF THERE ARE NO OTHER BIDDERS THE APPLICANT WILL BE ALLOCATED THE NUMBER. HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE OTHER BIDDERS FOR THAT PARTICULAR NUMBER AND IF THE APPLICANT IS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THE BIDDING HE WILL HAVE HIS \$1,000 DEPOSIT RETURNED.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ANY REGISTRATION NUMBER BEING APPLIED FOR.

HE SAID: +IN PRACTICE THIS WILL MEAN THAT ONLY UNASSIGNED REGISTRATION NUMBERS FROM THE SERIES AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED.+

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WORK ON SHA TIN HOSPITAL AND POLYCLINIC TO BEGIN SOON
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL AND POLYCLINIC.

WORK IN THE FIRST PHASE, WHICH COMPRISES SITE PREPARATION AND CAISSON FOUNDATION WORK, IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN OCTOBER AND TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SITES FOR THE HOSPITAL AND OTHER CONNECTED FACILITIES ARE LOCATED ON RECLAIMED LAND.

WHEN FULLY COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1982, THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL WILL HAVE 1,400 BEDS AND SERVE 700,000 PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN AREA OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WILL ALSO BE THE TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR THE PROPOSED MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE NEW HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES WITH GENERAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES, INCLUDING OUT-PATIENTS AND CASUALTY SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS BEFORE AND AFTER ANY HOSPITALISATION.

THE HOSPITAL COMPLEX WILL INCLUDE A MAIN WARD BLOCK, A SPECIAL WARD BLOCK, AN ANNEX FOR PROFESSIONAL AND A TEACHING POLYCLINIC ATTACHED TO THE HOSPITAL.

RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR MEDICAL STAFF AND STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE BUILT CONCURRENTLY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE HOSPITAL WILL BE FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTERED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WITH THE TEACHING STAFF EMPLOYED AND PAID BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

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FLYOVER IN CAUSEWAY BAY PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A FLYOVER ALONG LAU SIN STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY TO PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT ACCESS FROM TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD TO HING FAT STREET.

THE PROPOSED FLYOVER WILL BE A TWO-LANE ELEVATED CARRIAGEWAY OF WHICH A SECTION WILL SPAN ACROSS KING'S ROAD.

A FOOTBRIDGE ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE FLYOVER WILL BE PROVIDED THUS FACILITATING PEDESTRIANS CROSSING KING'S ROAD AT THIS LOCATION.

THE GROUND LEVEL ROAD NETWORK IN THE VICINITY OF THE FLYOVER WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED UNDER THE PROJECT TO PROVIDE MORE SMOOTH TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID: +BECAUSE OF INTENSIVE BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND BRAEMAR HILL ROAD AREAS, LARGE VOLUMES OF TRAFFIC ARE GENERATED AT THE JUNCTIONS OF TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD/KING'S ROAD/CAUSEWAY ROAD/HING FAT STREET, CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CONGESTION.

THE PROPOSED WORKS WILL INVOLVE ALTERATION TO THE ALIGNMENTS AND WIDTHS OF LAU SIN STREET, ELECTRIC ROAD AND HING FAT STREET.

A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED UNDERTAKING MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS SO AS TO REACH HIS OFFICE NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 7, 1978.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE RTHK'S
NEW MUSICAL PRODUCTION

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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE ITS NEW CHINESE-MUSICAL PROGRAMME, +SONGS ALIVE+ AT TELEVISION PRODUCTION CENTRE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS ETV HOUSE) AT BROADCAST DRIVE AT 11 A.M. ON SUNDAY (JULY 9).

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. LUN SIU-MING, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING AND MISS CHEUNG MAN-YEE, THE CONTROLLER OF TELEVISION DIVISION.

WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES IN THE MUSICAL FIELD HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

TWO EPISODES OF THE PROGRAMME -- +FUNG YANG DRUM SONG+ AND +MOONLIGHT+ -- WILL BE SCREENED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PASSING-OUT PARADE OF PRISON RECRUITS

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. LEWIS DAVIES, WILL TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TAKE THE SALUTE FROM 100 PRISON RECRUITS AT THEIR PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AT STANLEY.

MR. DAVIES WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE GRADUATES.

THE RECRUITS, COMPRISING 17 OFFICERS AND 83 ASSISTANT OFFICERS, HAVE JUST COMPLETED SIX MONTHS TRAINING AND WILL SOON BE POSTED TO VARIOUS PRISONS INSTITUTIONS.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL START AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW. A VAN WILL TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO STANLEY LEAVING THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT 32. 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 10.15 A.M.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ENGINEERS TO VISIT KWAI CHUNG INCINERATOR
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MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS WILL TOMORROW VISIT THE \$150 MILLION KWAI CHUNG INCINERATOR NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

IT IS ONE OF THEIR MANY VISITS TO VARIOUS MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN RECENT YEARS.

THE VISITORS WILL ARRIVE AT THE INCINERATOR'S SITE ON KWAI CHUNG RECLAMATION NEAR THE CONTAINER TERMINAL AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE VISIT. OFFICERS OF THE P.W.D.'S PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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