



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1979

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BUSES TO CONTINUE TO PLAY DOMINANT ROLE IN TRANSPORT

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BUSES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE IN HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT SYSTEM EVEN WHEN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY BEGINS OPERATION, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, DR. RICHARD BUTLER, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) AT A ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH LUNCHEON.

AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH THE FARES WHICH BUSES, TRAMS AND FERRIES CHARGE SO AS TO RIG THEM TO BENEFIT THE MTR, HE SAID.

REFERRING TO PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 9, DR. BUTLER SAID.

+SOME SPOKESMEN HAVE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT OUR PLANNING PLACES OVER-DEPENDENCE ON THE MTR AND THAT BUSES WILL BE REDUCED TO A SUPPLEMENTARY ROLE. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

+THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MTR WILL CARRY, AT MOST ONLY ONE MILLION OUT OF OVER SIX MILLION BOARDINGS A DAY AND WILL FACE COMPETITION FROM BUSES AND FERRIES AND TO A LESS EXTENT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN JUST THE SAME WAY AS THE BUSES NOW FACE SUCH COMPETITION.+

DR. BUTLER SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF BUSES ON PARTICULAR ROUTES MIGHT BE REDUCED AS PREVIOUS USERS SWITCH TO THE MTR.

+BUT THE IMPORTANT THING TO STRESS IS THAT BUS CAPACITY ON A ROUTE WILL BE REDUCED IN RESPONSE TO A VOLUNTARY SWITCH IN DEMAND AND THE BUSES RELEASED WILL BE USED ELSEWHERE TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICES IN AREAS NOT SERVED BY THE MTR,+ HE SAID.

DR. BUTLER HOPED THAT ANY CUTBACKS IN THE NUMBER OF BUSES ON PARTICULAR ROUTES WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN ANY FALL IN PUBLIC DEMAND SO THAT OVERCROWDING COULD BE REDUCED.

+WE ARE PLANNING WITH THE COMPANIES FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF BUS SERVICES SO AS TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING, IMPROVE CLEANLINESS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BREAKDOWNS,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING ABOUT CONTAINING THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE VEHICLES DR. BUTLER SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE THIS BY PARKING AND FISCAL MEANS.

HE SAID: +INCREASES IN REGISTRATION AND LICENCE FEES HAVE NOT BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE PAST TO CONTAIN PRIVATE VEHICLE NUMBERS' GROWTH- THEY HAVE BEEN USED TO RAISE PUBLIC REVENUE, AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER.+

+AS REGARDS PARKING CONTROL THE PRINCIPLE IS THAT WE CONSTRAIN PARKING FACILITIES TO THOSE LOCATIONS WHERE THE ROADS CAN BEAR THE STRAIN OF THE INCREASED MOTORING WHICH THEIR PROVISION WILL GENERATE. SUBJECT TO THAT, OF COURSE WE WILL SEE TO IT THAT OFF-STREET CAR PARKS ARE BUILT.+

/DR. BUTLER

DR. BUTLER CONCEDED THAT IN TRYING TO ACHIEVE A GREATER THROUGH-PUT OF TRAFFIC, THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE EXECUTION OF ROAD WORKS WITH THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE LOOKED AT EVEN MORE CLOSELY.

HE SAID THAT SOME CRITICS OF THE TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER HAD POINTED OUT THAT \$4,000 MILLION OUT OF THE \$7,000 MILLION TO BE SPENT ON IMPROVING HONG KONG'S ROAD NETWORK WILL BE SPENT ON NEW TERRITORIES ROADS AND HAVE URGED THAT MORE SHOULD BE SPENT IN EXISTING URBAN AREAS.

+I DON'T AGREE,+ HE STATED, ADDING +IT IS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES THAT MORE AND MORE OF OUR PEOPLE WILL BE MOVING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OR SO. IN EXISTING URBAN AREAS THE SCOPE FOR BUILDING NEW ROADS IS LIMITED AND THE COST OF DOING SO, OR OF DOUBLE DECKING EXISTING ROADS, IS ASTRONOMICAL BOTH IN DOLLAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS.+

DR. BUTLER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OF THE \$4,000 MILLION EARMARKED FOR ROADS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES \$1,500 MILLION WAS FOR A LANTAU FIXED CROSSING ABOUT WHICH NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE.

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NEW BILL PROPOSES APPOINTMENT OF
REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
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THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND ADOPTION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979 WHICH SEEKS TO AMEND THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN OFFICER TO BE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED THE BILL THE INTENTION WAS THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, AS COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION, SHOULD BE APPOINTED REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SERVING AS THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.

AT THE SAME TIME THE DIRECTOR WOULD ALSO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

+THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE, DOES NOT REQUIRE AMENDMENT AS IT ALREADY CONTAINS A PROVISION SIMILAR TO THAT NOW PROPOSED FOR THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION WAS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION WHICH ALREADY INCLUDE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND IDENTITY CARDS.

HE STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES AFFECTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE REGISTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS THEY ARE OPERATING NOW AND MARRIAGE CEREMONIES IN PARTICULAR WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED BY DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF MARRIAGE AS AT PRESENT, HE ADDED.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT TST OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAS APPROVED FOUR AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTES TO THE DRAFT TSIM SHA TSUI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GAZETTE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

THESE AMENDMENTS MAKE CLEAR WHETHER THE BOARD'S PERMISSION IS NEEDED FOR GOVERNMENT USE, MOTOR VEHICLE SHOWROOMS AND MASS TRANSIT STRUCTURES IN CERTAIN ZONES.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE JUNE 7.

THE AMENDED PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS UNTIL JUNE 7 AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE- THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (YAU MA TEI), 260-264 TEMPLE STREET, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON AND THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, 17TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AT \$5 A COPY.

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NEW BRANCH OFFICE AND MORE STAFF FOR IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

A NEW BRANCH OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL OPEN ON MONDAY IN VICTORIA BARRACKS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE SAID THE NEW OFFICE WILL DEAL MAINLY WITH APPLICATIONS FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND OTHER IMMIGRATION FACILITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

+THE TRANSFER OF THIS WORK TO THE NEW OFFICE WILL GREATLY ALLEVIATE THE PRESSURE ON THE EXISTING IMMIGRATION AND REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW OFFICE OCCUPIES ABOUT 2,322.58 SQUARE METRES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS LAUNCHING A RECRUITMENT DRIVE TO COPE WITH INCREASING WORKLOAD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LAST YEAR THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED 895,558 TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AN INCREASE OF 16 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

/THE NUMBER OF

THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG BRITISH PASSPORTS ISSUED DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 24,068 AND THE NUMBER OF RE-ENTRY PERMITS 274,824 -- AN INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT AND 23 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY HAVE INCREASED FROM 71,895 IN 1977 TO 79,176 IN 1978.

ON ADDITIONAL STAFF, THE SPOKESMAN SAID 123 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND 12 IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS.

IN ADDITION, POSTS FOR 72 GENERAL GRADE OFFICERS ARE NOW BEING FILLED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A RECRUITMENT EXERCISE WILL BE HELD EVERY SIX WEEKS FOR THE TIME BEING.

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PRINCIPALS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ACTIVITY APPROACH

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A HALF-DAY SEMINAR ON THE ACTIVITY APPROACH METHOD OF TEACHING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) FOR HEADS AND DEPUTY HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

ORGANISED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, THE SEMINAR AIMS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.

MRS. LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, WILL OPEN THE SEMINAR AT 9.30 A.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HALL OF CARITAS HOUSE, CAINE ROAD, HONG KONG.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY MR. PETER LAU, INSPECTOR (CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT) ON +INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.+

SEVERAL HEADMASTERS WHOSE SCHOOLS ARE ADOPTING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH METHOD WILL SPEAK ON THE ROLE OF THE HEAD IN IMPLEMENTING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.

A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT WILL ALSO BE HELD.

IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, 56 PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE ADOPTED THE ACTIVITY APPROACH, INVOLVING SOME 17,000 PUPILS IN 447 CLASSES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON THE ACTIVITY APPROACH METHOD OF TEACHING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT 9.30 A.M. AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF CARITAS HOUSE IN CAINE ROAD.

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WELFARE PLANS FOR YAU MA TEI-MONG KOK DISTRICT
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL OFFICER FOR WEST KOWLOON, MR. LU YU-HUA, TODAY (FRIDAY) SPOKE OF PLANS FOR THE EXPANSION OF WELFARE SERVICES IN THE YAU MA TEI-MONG KOK DISTRICT.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE TSIM SHA TSUI LIONS CLUB, MR. LU SAID THE PLANS WOULD PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED, THE ELDERLY AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY INCLUDE A COMMUNITY HALL AND A SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR THE DISABLED IN PAK TIN, A COMMUNITY CENTRE AS WELL AS YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND YAU MA TEI, A TRAINING CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE AGED.

MR. LU EXPLAINED THAT THE YAU MA TEI-MONG KOK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVELY COVERS TSIM SHA TSUI AND TAI KOK TSUI AS WELL. THE TOTAL POPULATION IN THE AREA IS 400,000.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE DISTRICT IS SERVED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THROUGH ITS 25 SERVICE UNITS WHICH INCLUDE FOUR FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, SIX SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS, FOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICES AND A COMMUNITY CENTRE.

+THE SIX SOCIAL SECURITY FIELDS UNITS, BETWEEN THEMSELVES, ARE PAYING OUT \$2 MILLION EACH MONTH TO ABOUT 4,600 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, \$1.5 MILLION TO SOME 15,000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES, AND \$300,000 TO 1,500 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES,+ HE SAID.

MR. LU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SPENDING ABOUT \$1.2 MILLION A DAY ON SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, AND THE YAU MA TEI-MONG KOK DISTRICT ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR \$120,000.

OLD PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT, HE SAID, HAVE NOT GIVEN UP THEIR CLAIMS TO THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AS THE NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS REPRESENTS OVER 95 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S POPULATION AGED 70 AND OVER.

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TOPPING OUT CEREMONY OF
TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN WAN CHAI
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, TODAY (FRIDAY) OFFICIATED AT THE TOPPING OUT CEREMONY OF THE TANG SHIU KIN VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN MORRISON HILL.

MR. MCDONALD DESCRIBED THE CEREMONY AS A MILESTONE IN THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

/+IT ALSO MARKS

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+IT ALSO MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL,+ HE SAID.

+THE SCHOOL IS PRESENTLY HOUSED IN THE FORMER PREMISES OF THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, WHICH WAS BUILT BEFORE THE WORLD WAR II,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THE ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES IN THE OLD BUILDING HAVE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE IN THE PAST, THEY DO NOT MEET THE STANDARDS PROVIDED IN PRESENT DAY GOVERNMENT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.+

MR. MCDONALD THANKED SIR SHIU-KIN TANG, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS ESPECIALLY IN THE MORRISON HILL AREA, FOR HIS \$4 MILLION DONATION TOWARDS THE COST OF THE BUILDING.

EARLIER, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, SAID THAT THE SCHOOL, WHEN COMPLETED, WOULD HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS AND 16 SPECIAL ROOMS AND WOULD PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF CLASSES FROM FORM 1 TO UPPER SIX.

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GOVT WATER ENGINEER TO RETIRE NEXT WEEK

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MR. HERBERT WOODTHORPE, GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER (NEW WORKS), WILL RETIRE NEXT WEEK AFTER MORE THAN 21 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

KNOWN TO HIS COLLEAGUES AS +WOODY,+ HE FIRST JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY 1958 AS AN ENGINEER.

MR. WOODTHORPE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR ENGINEER IN APRIL 1965 AND CHIEF ENGINEER IN JUNE 1969.

HE BECAME GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER IN MAY 1973.

IN 1978, MR. WOODTHORPE ACTED FOR SIX MONTHS AS PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER AND FOR SHORT PERIODS AS DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES.

TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, WILL PRESENT HIM WITH A RETIREMENT GIFT ON BEHALF OF COLLEAGUES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY.

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OPENING OF TWO CDO SUB-OFFICES

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TWO NEW CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SUB-OFFICES IN NAM SHAN ESTATE AND KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE OPENED EARLY NEXT WEEK.

THE NAM SHAN SUB-OFFICE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE OPENED ON MONDAY AT UNITS 21-24 NAM ON HOUSE, NAM SHAN ESTATE.

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 3-7789962.

THE KENNEDY TOWN SUB-OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE IS AT 82 BELCHER'S STREET, KENNEDY TOWN AND WILL BE OPENED ON TUESDAY.

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-487842.

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FIVE MORE MAXICAB ROUTES FOR KOWLOON

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A SECOND BATCH OF FIVE MAXICAB ROUTES IN KOWLOON WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON SUNDAY, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MAXICAB ROUTES IN KOWLOON TO 15.

THE FIVE NEW ROUTES ARE:

- * ROUTE 1 FROM TSIM SHA TSUI (HANKOW ROAD) TO HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD=
- * ROUTE 2 FROM JORDAN ROAD FERRY TO WATERLOO ROAD HILL (MAN FUK ROAD)=
- * ROUTE 17 FROM WONG TAI SIN (NORTH) TO CHUK YUEN COTTAGE AREA=
- * ROUTE 18 FROM WONG TAI SIN (NORTH) TO TSZ WAN SHAN (NORTH), AND
- * ROUTE 19 FROM TSZ WAN SHAN (NORTH) TO SAN PO KONG.

A TOTAL OF 18 MAXICABS WILL SERVICE THE FIVE NEW ROUTES WITH FARES RANGING FROM 40 CENTS TO \$1.

TEN MORE ROUTES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KOWLOON IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.

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