



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1976

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NEW G.P.O. ALMOST READY
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HONG KONG'S NEW \$43 MILLION GENERAL POST OFFICE HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL SOON BE OPENED.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WORKERS ARE NOW PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE MODERN FIVE-STORY COMPLEX WHICH WILL BE THE NEW NERVE CENTRE OF HONG KONG'S POSTAL SERVICE, REPLACING THE 65-YEAR-OLD G.P.O. BUILDING AT PEDDER STREET.

DESIGNED BY A TEAM OF SENIOR P.W.D. ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, THE ELEGANT STRUCTURE FEATURES A WHITE GLASS MOSAIC FINISH AND IS FITTED WITH TINTED GLASS AND ANODISED ALUMINIUM WINDOWS. UNLIKE THE OLD G.P.O., THE NEW COMPLEX IS FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED.

AT NIGHT IT WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH SODIUM YELLOW-CAST LAMPS, ADDING ANOTHER GLOWING FEATURE TO HONG KONG'S GLITTERING SKYLINE.

APART FROM ITS IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, THE BUILDING HAS BEEN DESIGNED ON AN EXTREMELY FUNCTIONAL BASIS AND INCORPORATES THE LATEST MAIL HANDLING CONCEPTS.

PROMINENT AMONG THEM IS AN IN-BUILT THREE-BERTH DOCKING SYSTEM WHERE MAIL BAGS ARE LOWERED BY BOOMS INTO WAITING LAUNCHES FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSFER TO OCEAN-GOING SHIPS.

AUTOMATIC CHAIN AND BELT CONVEYORS, ALL GEARED TO FURTHER ENHANCE MAIL HANDLING EFFICIENCY, CRISS-CROSS THE BUILDING IN ALMOST SURREALISTIC PATTERNS. MANUAL BACKUP SYSTEMS ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SCANNERS, CENTRALISED VACUUM CLEANING DEVICES -- THE FIRST IN HONG KONG -- AND AN ARRAY OF OTHER ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL INNOVATIONS INSTALLED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF CONSULTANT ENGINEERS FROM THE BRITISH POST OFFICE.

LOCATED ON A 3,700 SQUARE-METRE (40,000 SQ. FT.) SITE ON THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION, THE BUILDING PROVIDES A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 15,800 SQUARE METRES (170,000 SQ. FT.) -- MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT IN THE OLD G.P.O. BUILDING.

ACCESS TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IS EITHER FROM STREET LEVEL OR FROM A HIGH-LEVEL PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE WHICH INTERCONNECTS OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY.

THE MAIN PUBLIC HALL IS SITUATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR WHERE, APART FROM NORMAL STAMP SALES, 12,400 POST OFFICE BOXES ARE PROVIDED. THIS IS NEARLY TWICE THE NUMBER PROVIDED IN THE OLD G.P.O.

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THE MAIN SORTING OFFICE IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, WHILE THE THIRD AND SECOND FLOORS PROVIDE ADMINISTRATION OFFICES.

BUILDING WORK ON THE NEW COMPLEX BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1974 WITH MORE THAN 25 COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT CONTRACTS UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE P.W.D.'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR, TECHNIC INVESTMENT AND CONSTRUCTION CO., IS A HONG KONG CONCERN, BUT SUBSTANTIAL ORDERS WERE ALSO WON BY FIRMS FROM BRITAIN, JAPAN, HOLLAND AND MALAYSIA, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH HONG KONG-BASED SUBSIDIARIES OR REPRESENTATIVES. THE POSTAL MECHANISATION WAS PERFORMED BY A BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN CONSORTIUM HEADED BY JARDINES CORPORATION.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN HANDING OVER THE COMPLETED BUILDING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND SECTIONS OF THE G.P.O. WILL BE MOVING IN PROGRESSIVELY. THE BUILDING IS DUE TO BE OPENED IN AUGUST.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW G.P.O. BUILDING, THREE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ARE TO BE ISSUED — TWO DEPICTING THE OLD STRUCTURE AND ITS MODERN REPLACEMENT, WHILE THE THIRD WILL BEAR THE CHINESE CHARACTERS FOR +POSTAL SERVICE+.

MEANWHILE, THE OLD VICTORIAN-STYLE G.P.O. IS TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR A MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AND OFFICE TOWER BLOCK.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON PROPOSED TSIM SHA TSUI DEVELOPMENT

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY (JULY 2) AFTERNOON TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED FOR TSIM SHA TSUI DISTRICT.

MR. MCDONALD WILL EXPLAIN THE NEW TSIM SHA TSUI DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN AT 3 P.M. SHARP IN THE P.W.D. CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE MR. ALEC MEYERS, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND MR. KERWIN YAN, P.W.D. PLANNING OFFICER (KOWLOON).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

TELEVISION TEAMS ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE IN TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING.

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MORE DRUG ADDICTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT
METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES

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SOME 630 DRUG ADDICTS RECEIVED TREATMENT AT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 12 EVENING METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES IN THE FIRST WEEK OF OPERATION BETWEEN JUNE 23 AND JUNE 29.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. G.H. CHOA, DESCRIBED THE INITIAL RESPONSE AS +FAVOURABLE+.

WHAT WAS MORE ENCOURAGING, HE SAID, WAS THE FACT THAT THE DAILY RETURN RATE OF THE METHADONE USERS EXCEEDED 80 PER CENT, WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

DR. CHOA SAID THE 12 EVENING METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES GOT OFF TO A SLOW START ON JUNE 23 WHEN ONLY 72 ADDICTS TURNED UP INCLUDING 20 TRANSFERRED FROM THE DAYTIME VIOLET PEEL CENTRE.

ATTENDANCES ON THE SECOND AND THIRD DAY WERE ALSO FEW, BUT THEY BEGAN TO PICK UP TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK WHEN MORE THAN 100 NEW CASES WERE RECORDED IN ONE DAY.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE CENTRES AT KWUN TONG AND SHEK KIP MEI IN KOWLOON AND CHAI WAN ON THE ISLAND WERE THE MOST POPULAR, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL REGISTRATION.

ALL CENTRES ARE OPEN DAILY FROM 6 P.M. TO 10 P.M. THERE ARE NINE SUCH CENTRES IN KOWLOON, ONE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TWO ON THE ISLAND.

THE EVENING METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES ARE HOUSED IN GOVERNMENT OUTPATIENT CLINICS IN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS: CHAI WAN, WAN CHAI, KWUN TONG, SHEK KIP MEI, YAU MA TEI, SHAM SHUI PO, MONGKOK, TSZ WAN SHAN, KOWLOON CITY, WANG TAU HOM, CHEUNG SHA WAN AND NORTH KWAI CHUNG.

IN ADDITION, THERE IS A DAYTIME METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRE AT THE VIOLET PEEL CLINIC OPERATING FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

SOME 200 ADDICTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THIS CENTRE SINCE IT WAS OPENED ON JUNE 1. THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT THIS CENTRE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SLOWED DOWN BY THE MORE POPULAR EVENING CENTRES.

DR. CHOA SAID HE EXPECTED THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF METHADONE USERS TO CONTINUE AS MORE AND MORE ADDICTS CAME TO KNOW OF THE METHADONE DETOXIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES THROUGH VARIOUS PUBLICITY MEDIA.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S FOUR METHADONE MAINTENANCE CENTRES HAVE NOW REGISTERED SOME 7,300 ADDICTS, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 2,000 IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

DR. CHOA REITERATED THAT SUCCESS IN ANY DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMME COULD NOT BE ASSESSED BY NUMBERS.

+THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIME TO THOSE WHO MAY REQUIRE TREATMENT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER,+ HE SAID.

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NEW AMBULANCE STATION FOR CHAI WAN

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY COMMISSION A NEW AMBULANCE STATION IN CHAI WAN TO AUGMENT THE PRESENT EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE AREA.

THIS BRINGS TO TEN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMBULANCE DEPOTS/STATIONS IN ALL PARTS OF HONG KONG.

SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BLOCK 2, HING WAH ESTATE, THE STATION OCCUPIES AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,700 SQUARE FEET. IT WILL HAVE A COMPLEMENT OF FOUR AMBULANCES WITH AN AMBULANCE OFFICER AND OVER 20 PERSONNEL.

PART OF THE GROUND FLOOR WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR BARRACK ROOMS, KITCHEN, MESS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHILE THE MEZZANINE FLOOR WILL BE USED AS AN OFFICE AND A STORE ROOM.

COMMENTING ON THE PROJECT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE NUMBER OF AMBULANCE CALLS RECEIVED HAS BEEN RISING EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF GREATER ACCEPTANCE BY THE PUBLIC OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

+THE NEW HING WAH STATION IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE BETTER EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS AND WORKERS IN CHAI WAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS WHERE DEVELOPMENT, BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, IS RAPIDLY INCREASING.+

A NUMBER OF OTHER NEW DEPOTS ARE ALSO PLANNED FOR KWAI CHUNG, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN, NGAU CHI WAN, CHEUNG SHA WAN, QUARRY BAY AND ABERDEEN.

+THE PLANNING OF NEW AMBULANCE DEPOTS OR FIRE STATIONS IS PREPARED AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AREA,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

HE SAID THE AIM WAS TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE TIME REQUIRED FOR AN AMBULANCE OR A FIRE APPLIANCE TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT ON RECEIPT OF A CALL FOR HELP.

MEANWHILE, PILING WORK OF THE TWO-STOREY KWAI CHUNG AMBULANCE DEPOT HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.

+CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT MONTH AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MAY NEXT YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FOUR COLOUR TV SETS FOR SWD

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENTED WITH FOUR COLOUR TELEVISION SETS BY THE LION'S CLUB OF TAI PING SHAN ON FRIDAY FOR USE BY ITS HOMES AND CENTRES.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL RECEIVE THE SETS FROM MR. WONG CHONG CHIU, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE 1976/77 OFFICE-BEARERS TO BE HELD AT THE KINGSGARDEN RESTAURANT.

THE TELEVISION SETS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE, MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME, KAI NANG TRAINING CENTRE AND KWUN TONG HOSTEL, ALL OF WHICH PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES. AFTER THE DAILY WORK AND STUDY SESSIONS, THE RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO RELAX AND ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF COLOUR TV IN ADDITION TO OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES LINED UP FOR THEM.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EVENT. THE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE KINGSGARDEN RESTAURANT AT 8 P.M.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (JULY 3).

THIS IS TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HEUNG CHI STREET, FU YUNG STREET, THE SEA-FRONT, TAI HO ROAD AND SHA TSUI ROAD INCLUDING TAI PA STREET AND HEUNG WO STREET.

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