



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1980

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
UK CAN PROVIDE CUSTOM-BUILT BUSES FOR HK	1
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR WELFARE PREMISES IN HOUSING ESTATES	2
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE TURNS OUT CRAFTSMEN IN GOOD DEMAND	3
SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR INAUGURATED	4
WATER CUT	5

UK CAN PROVIDE CUSTOM - BUILT BUSES FOR HK

BRITISH MANUFACTURERS ARE PREPARED TO BUILD LARGER BUSES SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR HONG KONG, SAID MR JOHN SHEARMAN, CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLANNING TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR SHEARMAN HAS RETURNED TO HONG KONG AFTER A MONTH-LONG TOUR OF BRITISH BUS MANUFACTURERS. DURING THE VISIT HE HAD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH BODY AND CHASSIS BUILDERS TO GIVE THEM SOME IDEA OF HONG KONG'S LONG AND SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE UK INDUSTRY COULD SUPPLY UP TO 2 500 NEW DOUBLE DECKERS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

RECENTLY, THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY ANNOUNCED MASSIVE MODERNISATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAMMES THAT WILL COST ABOUT \$1.500 MILLION.

THEIR PLANS INVOLVE THE PURCHASE OF DOUBLE DECKERS WITH ORDERS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE REGION OF 400 TO 500 EACH YEAR DURING THE COURSE OF THE FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

MR SHEARMAN SAID THAT SOME UK MANUFACTURERS WERE NOT ONLY WILLING TO GIVE HONG KONG'S REQUIREMENTS THEIR TOP PRIORITY, BUT ARE ACTUALLY SEEKING THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO IF ORDERS COME THEIR WAY.

HE SAID: +UK MANUFACTURERS APPRECIATE THAT HONG KONG'S MARKET FOR BUSES IS SPECIALISED. THERE IS NOT A 'UNIVERSAL' BUS FOR HONG KONG - RATHER ONE TYPE SUITABLE FOR HILLY ROUTES WITH NARROW ROADS AND ANOTHER TYPE FOR FLAT, TRUNK CORRIDOR ROUTES SUCH AS THE WATERFRONT ROAD AND CERTAIN MAJOR ROADS IN KOWLOON. THE UK CAN PROVIDE BOTH TYPES+.

MR SHEARMAN SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO UK HE TOLD MANUFACTURERS THAT FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING BUS COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WILL ENABLE THEM TO RUN 12-METRE LONG DOUBLE-DECKERS WITH A CAPACITY FOR AROUND 180 PASSENGERS ON CERTAIN SELECTED ROUTES. +THE MANUFACTURERS SEEMED TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS AND ARE NOW EMBARKING ON PRELIMINARY DESIGN WORK,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, IN ORDER NOT TO EXCEED AXLE-LOADING LIMITATIONS IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO DESIGN DOUBLE-DECKERS WITH POWER ASSISTED TWIN-STEERING. WE WILL BE WAITING TO SEE WHAT PROPOSALS THEY COME UP WITH.+

MR SHEARMAN ALSO VISITED MANUFACTURERS IN WEST GERMANY. HE SAID THAT IT IS APPARENT THAT THEIR CURRENT DOUBLE-DECKER MODELS WOULD REQUIRE MODIFICATION FOR HONG KONG'S OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE CONDITIONS, AND WERE UNLIKELY TO BE PRICE COMPETITIVE.

+NEVERTHELESS,+ HE SAID, +AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WEST GERMANY MAY BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A DOUBLE-DECKER SUITABLE FOR HONG KONG. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO GOOD REASON TO GO ELSEWHERE AT THE MOMENT, WEST GERMANY DOES PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF SUPPLY SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.+

/MR SHEARMAN

MR SHEARMAN FELT, HOWEVER, THAT AS THINGS WERE NOW, THE UK REMAINED OUR BEST, IF NOT HONG KONG'S ONLY, PRACTICAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY IN TERMS OF QUANTITY OF PRODUCTION, GOOD DELIVERY DATES, BUSES SPECIALLY BUILT TO HONG KONG'S REQUIREMENTS AND PRICE COMPETITIVENESS.

+PROVIDING WE PLACE OUR ORDERS FOR BUSES IN GOOD TIME, GIVING MANUFACTURERS FORWARD PROJECTIONS OF OUR NEEDS, THEN HONG KONG CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A MOST SATISFACTORY SUPPLY OF GOOD QUALITY DOUBLE-DECKERS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR WELFARE PREMISES IN HOUSING ESTATES
* * * * *

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES FOR PREMISES EARMARKED FOR WELFARE SERVICES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) PREMISES IN A NUMBER OF ESTATES HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR RUNNING NURSERIES, HOSTELS AND CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CENTRES, AND CLUBS FOR THE DISABLED.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD WRITTEN TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND PROVIDED THEM WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION ON WELFARE PREMISES WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE BEFORE 1985-86 IN ESTATES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR TO BE BUILT SHORTLY.

THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, CONSTANTLY LIAISED WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ON THE ALLOCATION OF WELFARE PREMISES TO ENSURE A BALANCED PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WELFARE PREMISES WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF AT LEAST 4 386 SQUARE METRES HAD BEEN RESERVED IN 11 HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATES WHICH WERE EITHER BEING BUILT OR TO BE BUILT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THESE ARE ESTATES IN AP LEI CHAU AND CHAI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND= NGAU TAU KOK AND CLEARWATER BAY ROAD IN KOWLOON= AND IN SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, AND ON TSING YI ISLAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SITES HAVE ALSO BEEN EARMARKED IN FIVE OF THESE ESTATES FOR THE BUILDING OF AN ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE WHICH WILL PROVIDE SPACE FOR VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IN WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG, ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 1980.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN APPLYING FOR A WELFARE PREMISES FOR A PARTICULAR PROJECT, APPLICANTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE PROJECT AND A COPY OF THEIR CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE WELFARE PREMISES AND THE PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (TEL: 5-774659).

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1980

- 3 -

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE
TURNS OUT CRAFTSMEN IN GOOD DEMAND
* * * *

MORE THAN 1 200 YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING SEVERAL GIRLS HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1977.

THE CENTRE OPERATED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY IS FINANCED BY A LEVY ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. ON COMPLETING THEIR TRAINING, ALL THE TRAINEES JOINED THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHERE THEY PUT THEIR SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE THROUGH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING BEFORE BECOMING FULLY QUALIFIED CRAFTSMEN IN THEIR TRADES.

THE TRADES CATERED FOR BY THE CENTRE ARE BRICK-LAYING AND PLASTERING, CARPENTRY AND JOINERY, PAINTING, DECORATING AND SIGN-WRITING, PLUMBING AND PIPE-FITTING, BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING, MASONRY, PLANT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE CENTRE HAD PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN REDUCING THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

+THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS LONG BEEN PLAGUED BY A SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS AND WAS THEREFORE UNDULY STRAINED AS ITS ACTIVITIES PICKED UP IN THE MID 1970S.

+TO COPE WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND THE INCREASED DEMAND ON AND NEW CHALLENGE TO THE INDUSTRY, THE INDUSTRY MUST INCREASE ITS PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH MECHANISATION AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS HAVING A BETTER TRAINED, DISCIPLINED AND SKILLED LABOUR FORCE,+ HE NOTED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE URGENT NEED OF THE INDUSTRY, THE AUTHORITY HAD APPLIED FOR AND WAS GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT A TEMPORARY SITE IN JUNE 1979 FOR THE TRAINING OF CONSTRUCTION PLANT OPERATORS, BAR-BENDERS, CONCRETORS AND LEVELLERS. THESE COURSES WERE STARTED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF OBTAINING THE LAND.

MORE THAN 100 TRAINEES HAD COMPLETED SUCH TRAINING AT THE CENTRE AND WERE IN GREAT DEMAND BY THE INDUSTRY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CENTRE WAS NOW WELL-PLACED TO RESPOND RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO ANY CHANGE IN THE MANPOWER REQUIREMENT OF THE INDUSTRY.

+IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE CENTRE RETAINS THIS ABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY IF IT IS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE WHICH THE INDUSTRY REQUIRES AND EXPECTS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1980

- 4 -

SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR INAUGURATED

* * * *

THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR, THE FIRST DISTRICT-WIDE MUSIC GROUP TO BE SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, WAS INAUGURATED THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

THE CHOIR, FORMED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE, HAS 75 MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 12, ALL OF WHOM ARE LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN.

IT HAS BEEN SET UP TO PROVIDE A RECREATIONAL OUTLET FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS.

SINCE THE CHOIR'S FIRST TRAINING SESSION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR, IT HAS TAKEN PART IN EIGHT SUCCESSFUL CHORAL PRESENTATIONS INCLUDING A CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL TWO MONTHS AGO.

THIS EVENING THEY PRESENTED AN AMBITIOUS MULTI-LINGUAL PROGRAMME AT THE BAPTIST COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL BEFORE A PACKED AUDIENCE OF VIPS, HEADED BY MR AKERS-JONES, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR COLIN BOSHER, AND THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

IT WAS THE CHOIR'S FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE AND MARKED, AS MR AKERS-JONES SAID IN A BRIEF OPENING SPEECH, +A SMALL BEGINNING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE.+

MR AKERS-JONES DESCRIBED THE ORGANISATION OF THE CHOIR THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE MUSIC OFFICE AND LOCAL SPONSORS AS +A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT WHICH DEMONSTRATES VERY CLEARLY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY'S APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE.+

CONGRATULATING THE CHOIR ON BEING ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE WAS VERY GLAD THIS INTEREST IN MUSIC AND SINGING WAS SPREADING TO ALL DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE ADVISORY BOARDS.

+SINGING IN A GOOD CHOIR IS AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE, AND UNITY AND HARMONY IN MUSIC GIVE ENJOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

+I AM SURE THAT TONIGHT, AS THE SAYING GOES, 'THEY SING SO WELL WE CAN STILL HEAR THE ECHO OF THE SONG FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.+

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE YOUNG CHORISTERS, ALL IN BRIGHT-COLOURED UNIFORMS, GAVE AN HOUR-LONG PERFORMANCE OF 15 CANTONESE, ENGLISH, ITALIAN, LATIN, MANDARIN AND HAKKA DIALECT SONGS.

THE CONCERT WAS SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS OF SAI KUNG SUNG TSUN MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHO, DRESSED IN CHINESE TRADITIONAL COSTUMES, PERFORMED A LION DANCE AND THREE CHINESE FOLK DANCES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1980

- 5 -

WATER CUT

* * *

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 13) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE BELCHER'S STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND CADOGAN STREET, SAI WAN ESTATE, VICTORIA ROAD, KA WAI MAN ROAD, SANDS STREET, CATCHICK STREET AND SMITHFIELD.

- - - - 0 - - - -