



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1976

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MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1976

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H.K. HOPES TO ASK FOR A FURTHER ADB LOAN
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY THAT HE HOPED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR ANOTHER BANK LOAN WHICH WOULD BE USED TO ASSIST IN +IMPROVING THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THOSE IN NEED IN HONG KONG.+

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY IN MANILA IN WHICH HE SIGNED THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR A US \$20 MILLION LOAN FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TOWARDS THE COST OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AT SHA TIN.

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BORROWERS SUCH AS HONG KONG WERE SEEN BY THE BANK AS BOTH SOUND CREDIT RISKS AND USEFUL ASSOCIATES IN THE BANK'S GROWING ROLE IN THE REGION.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AT THE CEREMONY:

+IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SIGN THIS LOAN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT FOR YOUR GOOD WISHES.

+THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG HAS BORROWED FROM THE BANK. PERHAPS I MIGHT BE PERMITTED TO STRESS ONLY THE SECOND TIME AND, AT 9-1/2 PER CENT, THE INTEREST CHARGES ON THIS LOAN WILL MAKE A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BANK'S INCOME. ON THE LAST OCCASION, IN 1972, WE BORROWED US\$ 21.5 MILLION TOWARDS THE COST OF ESTABLISHING A SEA WATER DESALTING PLANT.

+THE PROCEEDS OF THIS NEW LOAN, FOR US\$ 20 MILLION, WILL BE USED TO CONSTRUCT A SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS IN SHA TIN. SHA TIN IS ONE OF THE THREE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WILL HOUSE EVENTUALLY 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OVER ABOUT 6,500 ACRES OF LAND. IT IS IN THESE NEW TOWNS THAT WE ARE PUTTING OUR MAIN PUBLIC HOUSING EFFORT THOUGH ESTATES ARE STILL BEING BUILT IN THE URBAN AREAS.

+HONG KONG'S POPULATION, WHICH IS 4.4 MILLION AT PRESENT, HAS GROWN BY 800,000 DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS AND OF THIS INCREASE NO LESS THAN 150,000 REPRESENTED NET MIGRATION. SO IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT OUR MASSIVE HOUSING PROGRAMME WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE UNTIL WELL INTO THE 1980'S IN ORDER THAT ALL IN NEED OF PUBLIC HOUSING ARE SATISFACTORILY CATERED FOR.

+SHORTLY I HOPE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR ANOTHER BANK LOAN WHICH WILL ALSO BE USED TO ASSIST MY GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THOSE IN NEED IN HONG KONG AND I HOPE BORROWERS SUCH AS HONG KONG ARE SEEN BY THE BANK AS BOTH SOUND CREDIT RISKS - AS WE OBVIOUSLY ARE - AND USEFUL ASSOCIATES IN THE BANK'S GROWING ROLE IN THE REGION.+

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WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS COMES UP IN LEGCO

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10).

DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG WILL ASK IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL STEP IN TO HELP THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SERVICES FOLLOWING THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF A NUMBER OF DOCTORS.

THE HON. ROGER LOBO WILL ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE EARLY STEPS TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE IMPORT AND POSSESSION OF IMITATION FIREARMS AND +CONVERTIBLE+ TOY GUNS.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS CONCERN THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES ON WHETHER TO PROSECUTE OFFENDERS FOR THOSE VIOLENT CRIMES WHICH CARRY LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN THE MAGISTRACIES OR IN THE DISTRICT COURTS, THE PRESENT POSITION ON THE PROPOSED MOTOR NO-FAULT INSURANCE SCHEME, STEPS TO CONTROL FIRE HAZARDS IN THE SO-CALLED MUSIC PARLOURS AND SECURITY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE METRO.

AMONG THE BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, WHICH IS AIMED AT MAKING THE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY FOR THERAPEUTIC REASON A PERMANENT PART OF THE LAW.

DEBATE WILL BE RESUMED ON FOUR BILLS. THEY ARE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE COUNTRY PARKS BILL 1976 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

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WATER CUT

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY (MARCH 11) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHA TIN PASS ROAD AND SHEUNG TAK STREET AND INCLUDE LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE BLOCKS 3 TO 5, 15, 18 AND KAI MING LAU.

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APPLY FOR DANGEROUS GOODS LICENCE, OPERATORS TOLD
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OFFICERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY CARRY OUT INTENSIVE CHECKS ON VEHICLES USED FOR CONVEYING COMPRESSED GASES AND INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (MONDAY), A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN WARNED ALL OPERATORS OF DANGEROUS GOODS LORRIES THAT THEY WOULD FACE LEGAL ACTION IF THEIR VEHICLES WERE FOUND TO BE CARRYING SUCH GOODS AFTER APRIL 1, 1976 WITHOUT A LICENCE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE PENALTY FOR CARRYING THESE TWO CATEGORIES OF DANGEROUS GOODS WITHOUT A LICENCE, UPON CONVICTION, COULD BE \$8,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

ANNUAL LICENSING OF THESE VEHICLES BECAME LAW IN 1973 AND HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVELY ENFORCED SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR.

ALL KNOWN OWNERS WERE SENT A LETTER, WITH APPLICATION FORMS ATTACHED, SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE ADVISING THEM OF THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE NEW LAW AND REQUESTING THEM TO APPLY TO THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU FOR LICENCES. IN ADDITION, THE NEW REQUIREMENTS WERE ALSO WIDELY PUBLICISED IN THE LOCAL PRESS FROM TIME TO TIME.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE MAJORITY HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHATSOEVER, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID, POINTING OUT AT THE SAME TIME THAT OF THE 2,000 SUCH VEHICLES ON RECORD, ONLY ABOUT 500 HAD SO FAR BEEN LICENSED AND INSPECTED.

+THE LICENCE FEE IS \$50 A YEAR AND OPERATORS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED OR SENT IN THEIR APPLICATION FORMS ARE URGED TO WRITE IMMEDIATELY TO THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, 11TH FLOOR, ASIAN HOUSE, HENNESSY ROAD, + HE ADDED.

THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS SHOULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE BUREAU FOR INSPECTION, EITHER BY LETTER OR BY TELEPHONE (5-281122 EXTENSION 44) BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 10 A.M. DAILY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

A CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO EXAMINE UP TO 40 VEHICLES A DAY. A CURRENT CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF EACH VEHICLE MUST BE PRODUCED AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE OF ANNUAL LICENSING WAS TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS ON THESE VEHICLES IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN U.K.

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A \$25,000 SCHOLARSHIP IS TO BE DONATED BY THE CHINESE BRITISH-RETURNED STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR A HONG KONG STUDENT WISHING TO TAKE A TWO-YEAR GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE SCHOLARSHIP IS FOR THE YEAR 1976-77 AND 1977-78, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF A SUITABLE PLACE IN A SCHOOL.

A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT WILL BE HANDED TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR. EDDIE AU-YEUNG, ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10).

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE UNDER 17 ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976, AND SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED VERY GOOD RESULTS IN THE 1976 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

SELECTION WILL BE BASED MAINLY ON THE RESULTS IN THE EXAMINATION BUT ALSO ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT COMPLETED FORM 5, AND, IF NECESSARY, AN INTERVIEW.

IT IS EMPHASISED THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL THE EXPENSES FOR A TWO-YEAR COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. APPLICANTS SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MAKE UP THE BALANCE OF SCHOOL FEES, THE COST OF RETURN AIR PASSAGES AND SO ON.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED BUT THE SUCCESSFUL STUDENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY SOME \$15,000 FROM HIS OWN RESOURCES TO FINANCE HIMSELF OVER THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP AND WHO ARE CONFIDENT OF OBTAINING VERY GOOD RESULTS IN THE 1976 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, INCLUDING GOOD RESULTS IN ENGLISH, MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS' AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HONG KONG BRANCH OFFICE, BONAVENTURE HOUSE, 91 LEIGHTON ROAD, 2ND FLOOR, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, FROM JUNE 1 TO 30, 1976.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION OF THE \$25,000 CHEQUE TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION. THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 9.30 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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