



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1981

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MODERNISED RAILWAY EQUAL TO BEST ANYWHERE

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THE MODERNISED KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WOULD OFFER A SUBURBAN SERVICE EQUAL TO THE MOST MODERN IN THE WORLD, THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MR D.M. HOWES, SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG, THAT THE INNER SUBURBAN SERVICE BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN WAS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE SPRING OF 1982, WHILE THE OUTER SUBURBAN SERVICE THROUGH TO LO WU SHOULD BE OPERATING BY THE BEGINNING OF 1983.

HE DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULTIES OF REBUILDING THE RAILWAY IN SITE.

+AT PRESENT, THE WHOLE RAILWAY FROM KOWLOON THROUGH TO LO WU IS VIRTUALLY A CONTINUOUS BUILDING SITE WITH A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF MAIN CONTRACTORS AT WORK,+ HE SAID.

+THE WORK CONTENT PER ROUTE KILOMETRE IS FAR IN EXCESS OF ANYTHING IN MY OWN 45 YEARS OF RAILWAY SERVICE AND GREATER THAN THE MODERNISATION/ELECTRIFICATION OF THE WEST COAST MAIN LINE FROM LONDON TO GLASGOW IN THE UK,+ MR HOWES SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO DIVERSIONARY ROUTES WHICH WOULD ALLOW SECTIONS OF THE RAILWAY TO BE CLOSED FOR REBUILDING.

+THE REALITY IS THAT ALL THE PHYSICAL WORK OF REBUILDING AFFECTING THE OPERATION OF THE ON-GOING RAILWAY HAS TO BE COMPRESSED INTO A PERIOD OF ONLY FIVE HOURS OUT OF EACH 24 - FROM ROUGHLY MIDNIGHT TO 5 AM, WHEN THE RAILWAY IS COMMERCIALY CLOSED.+

GIVEN SUCH CONSTRAINTS AND ITS EXISTING RESOURCES, THE KCR WAS OPERATING THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TRAIN SERVICE, BUT THERE WAS INCREASING EVIDENCE OF UNSATISFIED DEMAND AND OVERCROWDING ON TRAINS.

+IN SHORT, THE EXISTING RAILWAY IS ALREADY BEING ASKED TO PERFORM, UNDER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE TASK OF HANDLING A TRAFFIC VOLUME ABOVE ITS DESIGN CAPABILITY.

+I THINK IT IS TO THE GREAT CREDIT OF ALL RANKS OF THE KCR THAT THEY ARE MANAGING TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE STANDARD OF SERVICE DURING THE REBUILDING PERIOD.+

A MAJOR TASK WAS THE RETRAINING OF KCR STAFF AND TRAINING OF NEW RECRUITS. THE NUMBER OF STAFF WOULD RISE FROM ABOUT 1 200 TO SOME 1 800.

+FORTUNATELY, KCR STAFF, WITH THE BENEFIT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF EXPERIENCED RAILWAYMEN, HAVE SHOWN TREMENDOUS APTITUDE IN LEARNING NEW TECHNOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES,+ MR HOWES SAID.

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BY THE END OF AUGUST, THE KCR WOULD BEGIN TRIAL RUNNING AND DRIVER TRAINING WITH THE NEW ELECTRIC TRAINS OVER THE FIRST ENERGISED SECTION BETWEEN THE MAINTENANCE DEPOT AT RACECOURSE AND THE FEEDER STATION AT TAI WAI.

THE NEW TRAINS WOULD COMMAND PUBLIC APPROVAL AND OFFER IMMEASURABLY IMPROVED STANDARDS OF COMFORT, HE SAID.

+THE RAILWAY, BEING ELECTRIFIED AT 25 000 VOLTS, A STANDARD NOW GENERALLY APPLICABLE ON ALL MODERN SURFACE RAILWAYS, IS ENTIRELY SAFE, BUT DOES HAVE INHERENT DANGERS IF PEOPLE BEHAVE FOOLISHLY,+ MR HOWES SAID.

+QUITE APART FROM THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, THE RAILWAY HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY FENCED FROM END TO END.+

COMMENTING ON THE SPEED OF THE NEW SERVICE, HE SAID THAT A TRIP BETWEEN KOWLOON AND SHA TIN, CALLING AT MONG KOK AND THE NEW INTERCHANGE STATION WITH THE MTR AT KOWLOON TONG, WOULD TAKE ONLY 12 MINUTES.

+A JOURNEY FROM KOWLOON TO LO WU CALLING AT ALL STATIONS WILL TAKE SOME 40 MINUTES, AGAINST AN AVERAGE AT PRESENT OF 70 MINUTES. THE TOTAL INGREDIENTS OF THE NEW RAILWAY WILL PRESENT A DRAMATIC CHANGE BOTH WITHIN THE RAILWAY AND TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC,+ MR HOWES SAID.

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### \$37 MILLION AIR-CONDITIONING CONTRACT SIGNED

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TWO CONTRACTS WORTH A TOTAL OF \$37 MILLION WERE AWARDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO TWO HONG KONG COMPANIES FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROOM AIR-CONDITIONERS AND DEHUMIDIFIERS.

UNDER THE CONTRACTS, MORE THAN 10 000 UNITS OF ROOM AIR-CONDITIONERS AND DEHUMIDIFIERS WILL BE SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED BY SHUN HING ELECTRIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING CO. AND CHINA COLD STORAGE AND ENGINEERING CO. THE COMPANIES WILL MAINTAIN THE UNITS FOR FIVE YEARS.

THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR G.J. OSBORNE, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, MR W.K. LAM OF SHUN HING ELECTRIC AND MR JAMES M.H. WU OF CHINA COLD STORAGE.

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LASER SHOW FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AT SHA TIN  
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HONG KONG'S FIRST EVER OUTDOOR LASER SHOW WILL BE GIVEN AT SHA TIN RACECOURSE NEXT MONTH.

THE SHOW IS PART OF AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME TO CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 12, 13 AND 14 FROM 8 PM - 10.30 PM.

DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME WERE GIVEN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) BY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES- UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, MR CHAM SIU-LEUN AND MR LIU YUN-SUM- MR DAVID YAU OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB- THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE, MISS MARIA WAN- AND THE FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR, MR CHUNG LING-HOI.

THE LASER SHOW WOULD BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-HOUR PROGRAMME, MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

LASERS WILL BE USED TO CREATE A VARIETY OF HIGHLY COLOURFUL EFFECTS ON AND OVER HILLS SURROUNDING THE RACECOURSE.

+I AM SURE THE EFFECT WILL BE DRAMATIC AND EXCITING, AND APPEAL TO ALL AGES,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

THE LASER SHOW WILL BE SPLIT INTO THREE SEGMENTS AT THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END OF THE SHOW. IT IS BEING STAGED BY AN ENGLISH COMPANY, LASER CREATIONS.

THE PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES A LANTERN DANCE BY 230 SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM THE BISHOP HALL JUBILEE SCHOOL- KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE- FUNG KAI MIDDLE SCHOOL- SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE- ST. MARGARET GIRLS' SCHOOL (KOWLOON)- AND TAK CHING GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL- A MASS LION DANCE WITH 18 LIONS BY THE YUEN LONG COMMUNITY- MILITARY BAND MUSIC BY THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS- AND A VARIETY SHOW BY HK-TV B ARTISTES.

SOME 12 000 PEOPLE A NIGHT WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND +THIS UNIQUE WAY OF CELEBRATING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL+.

ALTHOUGH THE SHOW WILL BE STAGED IN SHA TIN, IT WILL BE A TERRITORY-WIDE EVENT AND PEOPLE FROM ALL PARTS OF HONG KONG ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL COST \$5 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THURSDAY FROM 20 ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES AND ALL BRANCHES OF TOM LEE PIANO LIMITED.

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A LIMITED NUMBER OF PARKING PERMITS COSTING \$20 EACH WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FROM OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES AT THE STAR FERRY-AUSTIN ROAD, KOWLOON- AND TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THE EVENT IS BEING ORGANISED BY GOVERNMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE ARMED FORCES, THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND SEVERAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY ON THE FIRST EVENING.

THE EVENT WILL COST A TOTAL OF \$850 000 TO STAGE, OF WHICH \$150 000 IS BEING DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND \$400 000 BY PRIVATE DONATIONS.

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#### REMINDER ON OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS

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EMPLOYERS WERE REMINDED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THEY SHOULD INFORM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS IF THE INJURED EMPLOYEE IS GIVEN SICK LEAVE FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED THE REMINDER FOLLOWING TWO RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH A RESTAURANT AND A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WERE EACH FINED THE MAXIMUM OF \$1 000 FOR FAILING TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IF AN EMPLOYEE IS INJURED AT WORK AND GIVEN SICK LEAVE BY A DOCTOR FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS, THE EMPLOYER SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE BY NOTIFYING THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE ACCIDENT.

THE EMPLOYER SHOULD DO SO WHETHER OR NOT THE ACCIDENT GAVE RISE TO LIABILITY TO PAY COMPENSATION.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO, WITHOUT A REASONABLE EXCUSE, FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THAT PARTICULAR PROVISION, WAS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND, ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1 000.

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SIX NT SITES SOLD FOR \$140 MILLION  
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SIX LOTS OF LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$140 MILLION, HALF OF WHICH (\$70 MILLION) WAS REALISED FOR A 22 570-SQUARE-METRE SITE FOR TWO-STOREY, PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN.

THIS SITE, WITH A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$12.9 MILLION TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN FOUR YEARS, WENT TO TOP SHAN LIMITED. THE PRICE PER SQUARE METRE WAS \$3 101.

ANOTHER SITE IN SHA TIN FOR THE SAME TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT, MEASURING 1 330 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD FOR \$5.5 MILLION (\$4 135 PER SQUARE METRE). THE PURCHASER WAS DOUBLE WEALTHY COMPANY LIMITED, WHO WILL HAVE TO FULFIL A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$1.12 MILLION WITHIN THREE YEARS.

TWO SITES IN TUEN MUN FOR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN DEVELOPMENT REALISED A TOTAL OF \$40 MILLION.

THE LARGER SITE MEASURING 2 851 SQUARE METRES SOLD FOR \$22 MILLION (\$7 717 PER SQUARE METRE). THE PURCHASER, EASTERN CATER ENTERPRISES COMPANY LIMITED, WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET A FOUR-YEAR BUILDING COVENANT OF \$23.14 MILLION.

THE SMALLER SITE, MEASURING 2 018 SQUARE METRES, REALISED \$18 MILLION (\$8 920 PER SQUARE METRE). THE PURCHASER WAS ALLIED AND ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES (HONG KONG) LIMITED, WHOSE BUILDING COVENANT COMMITMENT IS \$15.96 MILLION WITHIN A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD.

THE FIRST YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL SITES TO BE OFFERED FOR MANY YEARS SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$24.5 MILLION.

ONE SITE, MEASURING 2 565 SQUARE METRES WAS BOUGHT BY UNIWEL LAND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED FOR \$18 MILLION (\$7 018 PER SQUARE METRE). THE BUILDING COVENANT IS \$15.39 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

THE OTHER SITE MEASURES 1 159 SQUARE METRES AND WAS SOLD TO ANKING ENTERPRISES LIMITED FOR \$6.5 MILLION (\$5 608 PER SQUARE METRE). THIS SITE HAS A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$6.95 MILLION TO BE COMPLETED IN FOUR YEARS.

MR TONY HARLAND, WHO CONDUCTED THE AUCTION, DESCRIBED THE SUMS REALISED FOR THE SIX SITES AS +GENERALLY SATISFACTORY+.

ONE LOT IN TAI PO NEW TOWN CENTRE, MEASURING 5 204 SQUARE METRES, WAS WITHDRAWN.

MR HARLAND SAID THAT THE LOT WOULD PROBABLY BE OFFERED AGAIN AT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AUCTION OF NEW TERRITORIES LAND.

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FAMILIES TO GATHER AT PICNIC

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ABOUT 300 RESIDENTS IN LOK FU AREA WILL TAKE PART IN A ONE-DAY FAMILY PICNIC TO SAI KUNG ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 23).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LOK FU AREA COMMITTEE AND THE WONG TAI SIN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE EVENT IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT FOSTERING +UNDERSTANDING AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOK FU, AREA+. AT THE SAME TIME, IT SEEKS TO INTRODUCE THE WORK OF THE AREA COMMITTEE TO THEM.

PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE THREE WINNERS OF A QUIZ CONTEST ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, WHICH WAS HELD EARLIER AS PART OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

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ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FOR KWAI TAI ROAD

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KWAI TAI ROAD BETWEEN KWAI TAK STREET AND CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL BE CHANGED TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 19) FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC FLOW DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ROAD SURFACE IN THE AREA.

DURING THE RE-ROUTING PERIOD, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON THE AFFECTED ROAD SECTION WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWAI TAK STREET AND KWAI SHUN STREET TO CONTAINER PORT ROAD.

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