



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1977.

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P.W.D. AWARDS CONTRACT FOR H.K.'S FIRST COMPOSTING PLANT

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED THE FIRST CONTRACT FOR A NEW \$38 MILLION SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING AMOUNT OF REFUSE GENERATED BY THE RAPID GROWTH OF HONG KONG.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH \$21.25 MILLION, IS FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR HONG KONG'S FIRST PULVERISING AND COMPOSTING PLANT TO BE BUILT AT CHAI WAN.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND THE PLANT SHOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

THE CONTRACT SIGNED TODAY IN THE P.W.D.'S ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE JAPANESE FIRM NISSHO IWAI CO. LTD. IN ASSOCIATION WITH FUJI CAR MANUFACTURING CO. LTD. AND HUTCHISON-BOAG ENGINEERING LTD. -- ONE OF EIGHT FIRMS FROM SIX COUNTRIES WHICH SUBMITTED BIDS FOR THE PROJECT.

MR. J.A. WALLACE, THE P.W.D.'S PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, SAID THE NEW PLANT REPRESENTED A MAJOR STEP IN THE P.W.D.'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BETTER AND MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF DISPOSING OF REFUSE.

+THE MECHANISED COMPOSTING PROCESS IS A RELATIVELY NEW SYSTEM OF REFUSE DISPOSAL WHICH IS BECOMING MORE WIDELY USED IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IS BEING INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+IT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY BOOST OUR PRESENT FACILITIES AND, TOGETHER WITH THE EXISTING INCINERATOR AT KENNEDY TOWN, WILL ENABLE US TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE ISLAND'S REFUSE UNTIL WELL INTO THE 'EIGHTIES,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, SOME 760 TONNES OF REFUSE ARE COLLECTED EACH DAY ON HONG KONG ISLAND. OF THIS, 620 TONNES ARE BURNT AT THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR WHILE THE REST IS DUMPED AS FILL AT P.W.D. CONTROLLED TIPS.

MR. WALLACE SAID THE NEW PLANT WOULD INITIALLY BE CAPABLE OF DISPOSING OF 240 TONNES OF MIXED URBAN REFUSE PER DAY, BUT IT WAS INTENDED TO EVENTUALLY DOUBLE ITS CAPACITY TO 480 TONNES PER DAY.

HE SAID THE COMPOSTING PLANT FORMED PART OF AN OVERALL 10-YEAR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN FOR HONG KONG AS RECOMMENDED BY THE P.W.D.'S CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MAUNSELL'S CONSULTANTS ASIA.

PLANS WERE IN HAND FOR BUILDING A SECOND PULVERISING AND COMPOSTING PLANT TO BE LOCATED AT SHA TIN.

/MR. WALLACE

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MR. WALLACE SAID ONE OF THE BIG ADVANTAGES OF THE COMPOSTING PROCESS -- WHICH BASICALLY INVOLVES THE BREAKING DOWN OF SOLID WASTES INTO HYGIENICALLY SAFE, INERT AND INOFFENSIVE MATERIALS -- WAS THAT IT DID NOT CAUSE ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

+ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THAT THE SOLID WASTE IS REDUCED TO ABOUT ONE-FOURTH ITS ORIGINAL VOLUME, WHICH MAKES TRANSPORTATION TO MAINLAND FILL AREAS THAT MUCH EASIER,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW PLANT WAS DESIGNED TO ACCEPT DOMESTIC, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE, INCLUDING BULKY REFUSE.

ILLUSTRATING THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE NEW PLANT, MR. WALLACE SAID IT WOULD HAVE TWO GIANT REFUSE PULVERISERS EACH WEIGHING ABOUT 70 TONNES AND DRIVEN BY 800 HP ELECTRIC MOTORS TO REDUCE THE MATERIAL TO A PRODUCT SUITABLE FOR COMPOSTING.

ATTENTION WAS ALSO BEING PAID TO SOUND PROOFING THE BUILDING TO REDUCE SURROUNDING NOISE LEVELS, HE SAID.

AFTER PULVERISING, SCREENING AND FERROUS SEPARATION, THE MATERIAL WOULD BE CONVEYED TO FOUR TOTALLY ENCLOSED 'DIGESTION CHAMBERS' SOME 10 METRES IN DIAMETER AND 15 METRES HIGH, EACH WEIGHING 200 TONNES.

THE MATERIAL WILL REMAIN IN THE CHAMBERS FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS UNDERGOING DISTURBANCE AND AERATION UNDER CLOSELY CONTROLLED TEMPERATURE AND MOISTURE CONDITIONS, FINALLY PRODUCING AN INERT AND HYGIENICALLY SAFE MATERIAL.

GLASS, PLASTICS AND CERAMICS WILL ALSO BE SEPARATED AND THESE REJECTS RENDERED INERT BY THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE PROCESS.

MR. WALLACE SAID THAT GASES RELEASED DURING THE DIGESTION PROCESS WOULD BE DIRECTED THROUGH UNDERGROUND EARTH FILTERS BEFORE BEING DISCHARGED.

HE SAID THE COMPOST PRODUCED WOULD BASICALLY BE DISPOSED OF AS LAND FILL BUT SOME MIGHT BE USED AS TOP SOIL FOR RESTORING BORROWED AREAS AND QUARRIES AND FOR TURFING.

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BUDGET DAY ON WEDNESDAY

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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE MADE KNOWN ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 2) WHEN THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1977 IS PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 P.M. DURING WHICH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL AND OUTLINE THE MAIN FEATURES OF ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1977/78.

THE COUNCIL WILL THEN ADJOURN UNTIL MARCH 30 WHEN THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS. IF NECESSARY, THE DEBATE WILL CONTINUE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE OFFICIALS WILL REPLY TO THE POINTS RAISED BY THEIR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES ON APRIL 20.

THE COUNCIL WILL THEN ADJOURN AGAIN UNTIL MAY 4 WHEN THE BILL WILL BE CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE BEFORE ITS THIRD READING.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE COMPREHENSIVELY COVERED BY RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE OVER RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S CHINESE (RTHK 2) AND ENGLISH (RTHK 3 AND 4) SERVICES. IN ADDITION, RTHK 3 AND 4 WILL BROADCAST A TALK GIVEN BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FROM 6.15 P.M. TO 6.20 P.M. THERE WILL ALSO BE A PANEL DISCUSSION ON RTHK 3 AT 6.20 P.M.

OTHER BUDGET SITTINGS WILL ALSO BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RTHK 2 AND RTHK 4.

AS FOR COMMERCIAL RADIO, ITS CHINESE SERVICE WILL BROADCAST THE FIRST BUDGET SITTING LIVE ON CHANNEL ONE, WHILE THE ENGLISH SERVICE WILL GIVE COVERAGE TO THE SITTING IN HALF-HOURLY NEWS CASTS WITH TAPED EXCERPTS AND HIGHLIGHTS IN NEWS PROGRAMME BETWEEN 6 A.M. AND 8 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

ALL THREE TELEVISION STATIONS WILL BROADCAST THE FIRST BUDGET SITTING IN REGULAR NEWS PROGRAMMES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A 20-MINUTE PANEL DISCUSSION ON TVB'S JADE CHANNEL AT 10.40 P.M. AND ON PEARL CHANNEL AT 10.15 P.M.

THE ENGLISH SERVICE OF RTV WILL ALSO HOLD A PANEL DISCUSSION AT 10 P.M.

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EMPLOYMENT UP IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES
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A TOTAL OF 264,190 PEOPLE WAS ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 4,150 OR 1.6 PER CENT OVER THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

THIS ALSO REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 10,200 OR FOUR PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE IN DECEMBER 1975.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 126,090 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER ENGAGED WERE IN RETAIL TRADE, 79,250 IN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS AND 22,360 IN WHOLESALE TRADE.

THE OTHER 36,490 PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN A COMBINATION OF IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ACTIVITIES.

THE SURVEY ALSO RECORDED 90,020 PEOPLE BEING ENGAGED IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS, AND 16,870 IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THE FIGURES WERE HIGHER BY 680 OR 0.8 PER CENT AND 150 OR 0.9 PER CENT.

THE INCREASES WERE MORE SIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1975 : 6,720 OR 8.1 PER CENT IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS, AND 400 OR 2.4 PER CENT IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

DETAILS OF CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 1976 AND DECEMBER 1975 ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

ACTIVITY	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1976	CHANGE FROM SEPT. 1976		CHANGE FROM DEC. 1975	
		NO.	%	NO.	%
RETAIL	126,090	- 160	-0.1	+2,120	+1.7
IMPORT/EXPORT	79,250	+3,680	+4.9	+7,100	+9.8
WHOLESALE	22,360	+ 210	+1.0	+1,040	+4.9
IMPORT/EXPORT/ WHOLESALE/ RETAIL	36,490	+ 430	+1.2	- 60	-0.2
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	90,020	+ 680	+0.8	+6,720	+8.1
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	16,870	+ 150	+0.9	+ 400	+2.4
TOTAL	371,080	+4,990	+1.4	+17,320	+4.9

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PRE-WAR TENEMENT BUILDINGS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT
TO MAKE WAY FOR MAJOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

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TWO BLOCKS OF EIGHT PRE-WAR TENEMENT BUILDINGS IN WAN CHAI WERE TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON AFTER THE OCCUPANTS HAD COMPLETELY VACATED THE PREMISES.

THE BUILDINGS, NOS. 250-256 AND NOS. 262-268 WANCHAI ROAD, ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO MAKE WAY FOR TWO MAJOR PUBLIC PROJECTS -- THE EXTENSION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER TO WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MARKET TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE IN CANAL ROAD.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF THESE BUILDINGS HAD ALL ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION AND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION MADE TO THEM BY THE GOVERNMENT.

OVER \$400,000 HAD BEEN PAID TO THE 97 DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS AS EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION UNDER THE ADVANCE PAYMENT SCHEME INTRODUCED LAST YEAR, HE POINTED OUT.

IN ADDITION, HE ADDED, 66 FAMILIES COMPRISING 276 PERSONS HAD ALREADY MOVED, UNDER ARRANGEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT, TO THEIR NEW HOMES IN VARIOUS PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

WORK ON THE EXTENSION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER WHICH IS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED ABERDEEN TUNNEL, HAS ALREADY STARTED. WHEN COMPLETED, IT WILL PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE CROSS-HARBOUR AND ABERDEEN TUNNELS AND WILL FORM PART OF A MAJOR ROUTE LINKING KOWLOON AND ABERDEEN.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CANAL ROAD MARKET IS A PART OF THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WAN CHAI, WHICH AIMS TO COPE WITH THE INCREASE OF POPULATION IN THE AREA.

BOTH PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF WAN CHAI.

IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROJECTS, ANOTHER 21 BUILDINGS IN THE VICINITY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BE CLEARED. NINE OF THESE, SITUATED AT NOS. 255-261 WANCHAI ROAD, NOS. 1 AND 2 CHAN TONG LANE AND NOS. 21-25, BOWRINGTON ROAD, ARE BUILDINGS ON NON-RENEWABLE LEASES AND HAD ALREADY BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRATION OF THEIR LEASES MORE THAN THREE YEARS AGO.

THE REMAINING TWELVE BUILDINGS, SITUATED AT NOS. 1-9 AND NOS. 2-8, CHI SHING LANE, NO. 3 CHAN TONG LANE AND NOS. 19A AND 19B BOWRINGTON ROAD, WERE RESUMED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE CROWN LAND RESUMPTION ORDINANCE IN JULY LAST YEAR. THE OWNERS OF THESE BUILDINGS HAD BEEN OFFERED COMPENSATION AT THE CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF THEIR PREMISES.

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OF THE 235 TENANTS IN THE LEASE-EXPIRED AND RESUMED BUILDINGS, SO FAR SOME 180 HAVE ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION AND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED WITH THE OTHER TENANTS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AS THE CLEARANCE DATE IS DRAWING NEAR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ANY OWNER OR OCCUPANT OF THE RESUMED BUILDINGS MIGHT APPEAL TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR ARBITRATION IF THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION OFFERED TO THEM.

+HOWEVER, THEY MUST VACATE THE BUILDINGS AT THE GIVEN DATE, AS DEMOLITION WORK IS CLOSELY TIED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE WHICH HAS TO BEGIN IN TIME,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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VISIT TO KWANGCHOW BY POSTAL OFFICIALS

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AN EIGHT-MAN DELEGATION OF POSTAL OFFICIALS, LED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR. M. ADDI, LEFT BY TRAIN THIS (MONDAY) MORNING FOR A VISIT TO KWANGCHOW AT THE INVITATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE KWANGCHOW POST OFFICE.

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON FRIDAY (MARCH 4).

THE VISIT IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE ONE MADE BY A KWANGCHOW POSTAL DELEGATION TO HONG KONG A YEAR AGO.

THE OBJECT IS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN NEARING COMPLETION

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THE \$18 MILLION TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT CHEUNG SHA WAN IS RAPIDLY NEARING COMPLETION.

IT IS TO BE KNOWN AS HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE BECAUSE OF A DONATION OF \$5 MILLION BY MR. HAKING WONG, A PROMINENT INDUSTRIALIST, WHOSE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS INCLUDE CAMERAS, BINOCULARS, CASSETTE TAPE RECORDERS, ELECTRONIC FLASH UNITS AND SLIDE VIEWERS.

THE INSTITUTE OCCUPIES AN AREA OF SOME 8,600 SQUARE METRES BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND FORTUNE STREET. THE MAIN PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IS BY WAY OF LAI CHI KOK ROAD AT ITS SOUTH WESTERN SIDE.

ITS DESIGN IS SIMILAR TO THE INSTITUTES AT KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG. THE INSTITUTE HAS THREE BUILDING BLOCKS LINKED TOGETHER BY COVERED CORRIDORS. HOUSED IN THE MAIN FIVE-STOREY BLOCK ARE 55 TEACHING ROOMS, WORKSHOPS AND LABORATORIES WITH FACILITIES FOR COURSES IN HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM, CONSTRUCTION, MARINE AND FABRICATION, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, A LIBRARY AND STAFF AND STUDENT COMMON ROOMS ARE IN A FOUR-STOREY BLOCK.

THE REMAINING BLOCK HAS AN ASSEMBLY HALL WHICH SERVES AS A GYMNASIUM WITH A COVERED PLAY AREA, CANTEEN FACILITIES ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND MINOR STAFF QUARTERS ON THE UPPER FLOORS.

WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE INSTITUTE WILL BE ABLE TO TURN OUT 500 FULL-TIME AND 1,500 PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE STUDENTS YEARLY. THERE WILL ALSO BE COURSES IN THE EVENING.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE INSTITUTE, MR. ROBERT BRAY, SAID THAT HE ALREADY HAD 150 STUDENTS ON PART-TIME DAY RELEASE.

+THEY ARE VEHICLE BODY REPAIR APPRENTICES WHO ARE UNDERGOING TRAINING IN TEMPORARY PREMISES IN CAINE LANE. WE STARTED THE COURSE IN SEPTEMBER, 1976 FOLLOWING DEMAND FROM INDUSTRY,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

THE CAINE LANE FACILITIES WERE VISITED IN JANUARY BY EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL.

MR. BRAY SAID THAT THE ADMISSION OF FULL TIME STUDENTS WOULD BE IN SEPTEMBER AT THE START OF THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE PRINCIPAL IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MOVING INTO THE INSTITUTE. +I EXPECT I SHALL TAKE OVER THE BUILDING FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN APRIL,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

/RECENTLY,

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RECENTLY, THE PRINCIPAL WELCOMED MR. PETER KERRISON WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TO HEAD THE INSTITUTE'S HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT.

ASKED WHAT OTHER COURSES HIS INSTITUTE HAD TO OFFER THAT WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE EXISTING THREE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, MR. BRAY SAID: +IN ADDITION TO THE COURSES IN HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM, NEW DAY-TIME COURSES ARE BEING OFFERED IN YACHT AND BOAT BUILDING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING, MARINE PLANT FITTING, FOUNDRY WORK AND PATTERNMAKING, WHICH ARE PART OF THE MARINE AND FABRICATION DEPARTMENT= IN INSTRUMENTATION, INSTRUMENT MAKING AND REPAIRING, AND PLANT MAINTENANCE WHICH ARE PART OF THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT= IN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE SERVICING, LIFT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRING AND MARINE ELECTRICAL WORK AS PART OF THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT= IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AND COURSES DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE OFF-THE-JOB TRAINING WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO YOUNG PERSONS AT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY'S NEW TRAINING CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY.+

WHILE ONE INSTITUTE IS ABOUT TO OPEN ITS DOORS, SITE FORMATION ON ANOTHER - THE FIFTH - IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT AUGUST ON A 16,000 SQUARE METRES SITE AT RENFREW ROAD, KOWLOON TONG.

THIS INSTITUTE WILL ALSO HAVE FIVE DEPARTMENTS - COMMERCIAL STUDIES, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL STUDIES. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1979 IN TIME FOR OPENING IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 23A HOK LO MAIN STREET, KOWLOON LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND ORDERED DEMOLITION OF THE BUILDING.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THIS TWO STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED OF LOAD-BEARING WALLS WITH A TIMBER ROOF.

ADJACENT BUILDINGS WERE DAMAGED BY A RECENT FIRE AND WERE REQUIRED TO BE DEMOLISHED. ALTHOUGH NO. 23A HOK LO MAIN STREET WAS NOT TOUCHED BY THE FIRE IT IS GENERALLY DILAPIDATED AND WITH A PARTY WALL IN POOR CONDITION. IT IS CONSIDERED THAT IF THE BUILDING WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES IT WOULD BE LIABLE TO COLLAPSE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON MARCH 28, 1977 WAS POSTED TODAY.

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BELL TO ATTEND MEETING IN NEW DELHI

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MR. G. J. BELL, DIRECTOR, ROYAL OBSERVATORY, TODAY LEFT HONG KONG FOR NEW DELHI TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION'S PLANNING GROUP FOR THE MONSOON EXPERIMENT DUE TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

THE MEETING WILL DECIDE ON THE OBSERVATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EXPERIMENT, KNOWN AS MONEX. THE EXPERIMENT FORMS A PART OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION'S GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME (GARP).

IT IS HOPED THAT OBSERVATIONS TO BE MADE DURING THIS EXPERIMENT WILL ENABLE A MORE PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE MONSOON TO BE OBTAINED. A PART OF THE EXPERIMENT INVOLVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED MATHEMATICAL MODELS OF THE MONSOONS WHICH, IT IS HOPED, WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO BETTER FORECASTS.

AFTER THE PLANNING MEETING, MR. BELL WILL STAY ON IN NEW DELHI TO ATTEND A JOINT MEETING OF THE AMERICAN AND INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETIES TO DISCUSS **SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS** OF THE MONSOONS. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 10.

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TAI LONG WAN LOSES BUS SERVICE

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THE NEW LANTAU BUS ROUTE NO. 5 BETWEEN SILVERMINE BAY AND TAI LONG WAN WILL BE DISCONTINUED FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) BECAUSE OF LACK OF PASSENGERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THIS SERVICE WAS CURRENTLY OPERATED AT A SUBSTANTIAL LOSS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, PATRONAGE ON THIS SERVICE HAD BEEN VERY LOW AND THAT THE TRAFFIC DEMAND OF LESS THAN THREE PASSENGERS PER DAY DID NOT WARRANT THE CONTINUATION OF THE SERVICE.

WITH THE CANCELLATION OF THIS SERVICE, THERE ARE STILL FOUR BUS SERVICES BEING OPERATED BY THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE ON CASTLE PEAK RANGE BETWEEN 8.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. ON MARCH 10 (THURSDAY).

THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE 10 FIRING PRACTICES TO BE HELD AT THE SAME RANGE BETWEEN MARCH 7 AND MARCH 31, ANNOUNCED IN LAST FRIDAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF THE PRACTICE.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 2) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST IN THE AREA.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SHAUKIWAN ROAD, CHURCH STREET, THE SEAFRONT INCLUDING FACTORY STREET, TAI TAK STREET, MONG LUNG STREET, KAM WA STREET, PO MAN STREET, SHAUKIWAN MAIN STREET EAST AND WANG WA STREET.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT CRECHE AND NURSERY
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, WILL VISIT THE PO LEUNG KUK DOROTHY LEE CRECHE AND THE PO LEUNG KUK LAM TIN NURSERY ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 2) TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE NURSERY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE KUK IN THE LAM TIN AREA.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. MAXIME LI KWOK, CHAIRMAN OF PO LEUNG KUK= MRS. KITTY SIU HON-SUM, VICE-CHAIRMAN= MRS. LAI IP KAM-LUEN AND MR. LI SZE-KING, DIRECTORS OF THE KUK, AND MR. LEUNG CHIU-MAN, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (KWUN TONG).

MR. WALDEN WILL TOUR ROUND THE PREMISES AND SEE THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF THE CRECHE AS WELL AS THE NURSERY.

THE FACILITIES IN THE CRECHE INCLUDE AN ACTIVITY ROOM, A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ROOM, AN ISOLATION ROOM AND GENERAL OFFICE SPACE. THE CRECHE IS PRESENTLY STAFFED BY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL COMPRISING ONE SUPERVISOR, SIX WORKERS AND FOUR AMAHS.

BABIES OF THREE MONTHS TO TWO YEARS OF AGE FROM POOR FAMILIES ARE QUALIFIED FOR ADMISSION AND THE FEE IS \$70 A MONTH WITH THE DEFICIT BEING PARTLY COVERED BY A SUBSIDY FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE PO LEUNG KUK'S LAM TIN NURSERY OCCUPIES A TOTAL FLOOR SPACE OF OVER 6,000 SQUARE FEET. VARIOUS FACILITIES IN THE NURSERY INCLUDE AN ACTIVITY ROOM, A MUSIC ROOM, A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ROOM, AN ISOLATION WARD AND A GENERAL OFFICE.

LIKE THE CRECHE, THE NURSERY IS SUBSIDISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT. A NOMINAL FEE OF \$40 A MONTH IS CHARGED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. MR. WALDEN WILL ARRIVE AT THE CRECHE AT 2.45 P.M. ON THAT DAY.

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HARD-SIZED
64 MILL