



SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1975.

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

YEAR OF EXPANDING POSTAL SERVICES

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HONG KONG'S POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUED TO EXPAND IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY DURING THE 1974-75 FINANCIAL YEAR WITH A RECORD TOTAL OF 265.2 MILLION POSTAL ITEMS HANDLED BY THE POST OFFICE WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED METHODS.

REVENUE AMOUNTED TO \$183.7 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 5.8 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE, WHILE EXPENDITURE TOTALLING \$113 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 12.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S.

SPECIAL POSTAL SERVICES SUCH AS SPEEDPOST "ON DEMAND" AND ACCELERATED SURFACE POST WERE INTRODUCED AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED FACILITIES LIKE SPEEDPOST AND EXPRESS MAIL WERE EXPANDED AND CONSOLIDATED.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTAL ITEMS HANDLED, SOME 124.3 MILLION LETTERS, PRINTED PAPERS, POSTCARDS, REGISTERED MAIL AND SMALL PACKETS WERE POSTED IN HONG KONG FOR LOCAL DELIVERY.

THIS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 4.5 MILLION ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE, AND ALMOST A 70 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE VOLUME HANDLED FIVE YEARS AGO.

PARCELS POSTED FOR LOCAL DELIVERY ALSO ROSE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S 61,700 TO 89,600 - AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 45 PER CENT.

TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED VOLUME OF WORK, 20 EXTRA POSTMEN WERE EMPLOYED, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTMEN ON DELIVERY WORK TO 606. A NEW MAIL DELIVERY VAN WAS ALSO PUT TO USE, BRINGING TO 88 THE TOTAL FLEET STRENGTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIR AND SURFACE MAIL ITEMS SENT OVERSEAS FELL BY 4.2 PER CENT FROM 80.2 MILLION TO 76.8 MILLION. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THIS WAS MAINLY BECAUSE OF A REDUCTION IN THE POSTING OF MAIL ORDER ADVERTISING MATERIAL.

PARCELS SENT TO OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THOSE SENT BY AIR NUMBERED 854,900, AN INCREASE OF 109,900 OR 14.8 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE. PARCELS SENT BY SEA ALSO INCREASED BY 3.27 PER CENT, FROM 957,300 TO 988,600.

POSTAL ITEMS SENT TO CHINA CONTINUED TO INCREASE. THE NUMBER OF LETTERS AND PARCELS SENT ROSE BY 600,000 AND 114,800 RESPECTIVELY.

PARCELS RECEIVED FROM ABROAD WENT DOWN marginally BY 2 PER CENT TO 546,900 WHILE PARCELS RECEIVED IN TRANSIT ROSE BY 2.3 PER CENT TO 40,800.

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DURING THE YEAR, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE PROVISION AND EXPANSION OF SPECIAL POSTAL FACILITIES. SPEEDPOST, A FAST INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDING A DOOR-TO-DOOR PACKAGE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, WAS EXTENDED TO COVER BRAZIL AND JAPAN IN ADDITION TO BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS SERVICE HAD PROVED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND HAD BEEN FAVOURABLY COMMENTED UPON BY THOSE USING IT. IT HAD BROUGHT IN THREE-QUARTERS MILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE AND THIS FIGURE WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE AS THE SPEED AND RELIABILITY OF THE SERVICE BECAME MORE WIDELY KNOWN.

IN MAY THIS YEAR, A NEW SPEEDPOST "ON DEMAND" SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED TO THE U.S.A. TO SUPPLEMENT THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM OPERATED SOLELY ON A CONTRACT BASIS. THE "ON DEMAND" SERVICE IS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR NEED FOR "SPEEDPOST" FACILITIES.

THIS SERVICE CAN ONLY BE USED FOR SENDING PACKAGES TO THE UNITED STATES AT PRESENT, BUT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO EXTEND IT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

ANOTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL POSTAL FACILITY, THE "EXPRESS" MAIL WHICH STARTED ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS WITH 20 COUNTRIES IN MARCH LAST YEAR, WAS EXTENDED TO NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES. SOME 170,800 ITEMS WERE SENT BY THIS FACILITY DURING THE YEAR.

ACCELERATED SURFACE POST, ANOTHER NEW POSTAL SERVICE WHICH UTILISES SPARE AIRCRAFT SPACE FOR THE BULK POSTING OF PRINTED MATERIALS, STARTED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR. THIS FACILITY PROVIDES A USEFUL ALTERNATIVE TO THE CHEAPER, SLOWER SURFACE MAIL AND THE FAST BUT MORE EXPENSIVE AIRMAIL SERVICE.

AT PRESENT THE SERVICE IS ONLY AVAILABLE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM BUT PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXPAND IT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

DURING THE YEAR, A NEW POST OFFICE WAS OPENED AT PERKINS ROAD IN JARDINE'S LOOKOUT. THIS BROUGHT TO 69 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING A MOBILE POST OFFICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A SPECIAL PHILATELIC COUNTER, SELLING COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS AND PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR COMMEMORATIVE COVERS TO BE HAND-STAMPED, WAS SET UP IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID BUSINESS HAD BEEN BRISK AT THIS SPECIAL COUNTER AND THAT IT WAS PROVING TO BE INCREASINGLY POPULAR, ESPECIALLY AMONG TOURISTS.

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MORE +MAXI-CAB+ SERVICES PLANNED
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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS DRAWING UP COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR MORE +MAXI-CAB+ SERVICES TO OPERATE ON NARROWER ROADS IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS WHERE THE PROVISION OF LARGE BUSES IS NOT JUSTIFIED.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLANNERS OF THE DEPARTMENT HAVE STARTED THE FIRST OF ANOTHER SERIES OF FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PUBLIC LIGHT BUS OPERATORS ON NEW POSSIBLE MAXI-CAB ROUTES.

TALKS IN THE PAST HAVE RESULTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THREE POPULAR MAXI-CAB SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND THE PEAK, OLD PEAK ROAD AND PO SHAN ROAD.

THE LATEST ADDITION IS THE TWO SERVICES BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND CENTRAL AND ABERDEEN AND CAUSEWAY BAY VIA SHOUSON HILL, WONG NEI CHUNG GAP ROAD AND STUBBS ROAD. INITIAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING SINCE THEY STARTED LATE LAST MONTH.

AT A RECENT MEETING WITH HONG KONG ISLAND PLB REPRESENTATIVES, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS PUT FORWARD A LIST OF PROPOSED ROUTES FOR THE ISLAND. COPIES OF THE PROPOSALS WERE LATER SENT TO THE OPERATORS FOR CLOSER STUDY.

THE PROPOSED ROUTES INCLUDE STANLEY VILLAGE-STANLEY FORT-CHUNG HOM KOK/HEADLAND ROAD-STANLEY VILLAGE- RED HILL-TAI TAM ROAD-STANLEY VILLAGE- PERKINS ROAD/MT. BUTLER/BROADWOOD ROAD-WANCHAI FERRY PIER- BRAEMAR HILL-NORTH POINT-A KUNG NGAM VIA FORTRESS HILL ROAD- CHAI WAN-CAPE COLLINSON- MT. CAMERON-MAGAZINE GAP ROAD-CENTRAL- AND MT. MICHOLSON-WAN CHAI-CENTRAL.

FURTHER SESSIONS OF THE FRESH SERIES WILL BE HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PLB OPERATORS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. AMONG THE MAXI-CAB ROUTES PROPOSED WOULD BE YAU YAT TSUEN-HUNG HOM FERRY PIER- CALDECOTT ROAD-TAI KOK TSUI FERRY PIER, AND CHUK YUEN ESTATE-CHOI HUNG.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PERSUADE PLB OPERATORS TO RUN MORE MAXI-CAB SERVICES WERE IN LINE WITH PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER +TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG+ PUBLISHED LAST YEAR.

+PLBS ARE MUCH MORE SUITABLE THAN LARGE BUSES FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES ON NARROWER ROADS OF THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, OR ON THOSE WITH INSUFFICIENT PASSENGERS TO JUSTIFY THE PROVISION OF LARGE BUSES.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THEY COULD OPERATE ALONG THE MANY ROUTES WHICH ARE UNSUITABLE FOR FRANCHISED BUSES, OR ON THOSE ROUTES WHERE THE DEMAND IS TOO SMALL TO WARRANT LARGE BUSES BUT WHERE THERE IS STILL A NEED TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AND GENERALLY WHEREVER ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT REMAINS INADEQUATE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+MAXI-CAB+ SERVICES, OR PLB FEEDER SERVICES, ARE OPERATED ON AGREED FIXED TIMETABLES, FARES, ROUTES AND STOPPING PLACES WITH FIXED TERMINAL POINTS. THEY ARE PAINTED A GREEN TOP, PRIMROSE YELLOW BODY WITH A GREEN WAISTBAND AS DISTINCTION FROM OTHER PLBS.

IN CASES WHERE THE AGREED ROUTES CUT THROUGH PLB PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED AREAS, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT GIVES THE OPERATORS PERMISSION TO TRAVEL OR STOP IN THESE AREAS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GOOD SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

PLB OPERATORS ARE BEING INVITED TO SEND IN APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING MAXI-CAB ROUTES PROPOSED EITHER BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OR BY THEMSELVES. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AS TO SUITABLE AREAS WHERE MAXI-CABS SHOULD OPERATE.

THEY HAVE TO GIVE PARTICULARS ABOUT SPECIFIC ROUTING, FARE-STRUCTURE AND TIME-TABLE. A TEST RUN WOULD BE ARRANGED TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINE STOPPING PLACES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

+WE WILL GIVE THEM THE GREEN LIGHT IF EVERYTHING IS AGREED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TICKETS FOR FOURTH LOTTERY NOW ON SALE

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TICKETS FOR THE YEAR'S FOURTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY ARE NOW ON SALE AT \$2 EACH.

THEY ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL JULY 18 AT ALL ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TICKET SELLING BOOTHS AND THE HEAD AND BRANCH OFFICES OF MAJOR BANKS.

THE DRAW FOR WINNING NUMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MAIN CONCOURSE OF THE OCEAN TERMINAL AT 10 A.M. ON JULY 19 (SATURDAY). THESE NUMBERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JULY 21.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 159 PRIZES -- A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES, TOGETHER WITH 50 SPECIAL AND 106 CONSOLATION PRIZES. THESE PRIZES MUST BE CLAIMED WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE NUMBERS ARE PUBLISHED -- THAT IS BEFORE JULY 21, 1977.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MR. KAI-YIN CHAU, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CITY HALL RESTAURANT AT 1 P.M. TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF PLANS TO PROMOTE THE FOURTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY. YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.