



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1980

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TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1980

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MAJOR KCR ELECTRIFICATION CONTRACT AWARDED

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THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY TOOK ANOTHER STEP FORWARD TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AN OVERHEAD LINE TO PROVIDE POWER TO FUTURE ELECTRIC TRAINS.

THE \$44.8 MILLION CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED BY MR WONG MANG-KI, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BALFOUR BEATTY POWER CONSTRUCTION LIMITED OF BRITAIN.

SPEAKING AFTER THE CEREMONY, MR WONG SAID THE CONTRACT FORMED PART OF THE KCR MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME WHICH WAS ESTIMATED TO COST SOME \$2 000 MILLION.

ABOUT \$550 MILLION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE SCHEME IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEANWHILE, THE NEW TRAINS WHICH HAVE BEEN ORDERED ARE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THE FIRST UNITS WILL BE DELIVERED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

REFERRING TO THE CONTRACT SIGNED TODAY, MR WONG SAID, +WORK WILL START SHORTLY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 1982.

+THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALL SUPPORTING COLUMNS AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO SUSPEND THE POWER LINE AT A HEIGHT OF OVER FIVE METRES ABOVE THE TRACK.

+THE LINE WILL BE INSTALLED IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO THAT BEING USED FOR THE MTR ON THE OVERHEAD SECTION IN KWUN TONG.

+THE SUSPENDED WIRE WILL PROVIDE HIGH VOLTAGE POWER, AT 25 KV AC, FOR THE ELECTRIC TRACTION TO THE FASTER AND MORE QUIET TRAINS OF THE FUTURE.+

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC, MR WONG SAID, THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE RAILWAY, ABOUT 33 KILOMETRES, WILL BE SECURELY FENCED. THIS TOGETHER WITH FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS FOR PEDESTRIANS WILL BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE CONTRACTS.

TO CATER FOR THE INCREASE IN QUANTITY AND COMPLEXITY OF ROLLING STOCK, HE ADDED, A NEW SERVICING DEPOT WOULD BE BUILT SHORTLY AT HO TUNG LAU, SHA TIN.

UPON COMPLETION, THE DEPOT WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF THE NEW ELECTRIC ROLLING STOCK.

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GARRISON TALKS

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A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TEAM WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM LATER THIS MONTH WHERE THEY WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ON THE SIZE OF THE GARRISON AND RELATED MATTERS.

THE TEAM WILL INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

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FIRST CHEUNG CHAU SITE FOR SALE SINCE 1973

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THE FIRST SITE FOR SALE ON CHEUNG CHAU SINCE 1973 IS TO BE AUCTIONED IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE AT 11 AM ON MARCH 11.

THE SITE, AT FA PENG, IS FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

IT MEASURES ABOUT 3 160 SQUARE METRES IN AREA.

SITUATED AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE ISLAND, THE SITE COMMANDS CLEAR VIEWS OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

DEVELOPMENT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO TWO STOREYS ONLY AND THE PLOT RATIO WILL BE LIMITED TO 0.6.

A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$2 MILLION IS TO BE FULFILLED BY THE END OF MARCH, 1983.

THE LAST SALE OF A RESIDENTIAL LOT ON CHEUNG CHAU TOOK PLACE IN NOVEMBER, 1973. IT MEASURED 650 SQUARE METRES AND WAS ALSO FOR TWO-STOREY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

ALSO TO BE AUCTIONED ON MARCH 11 ARE A SITE FOR HOMES AT CHEUNG SHA ON LANTAU ISLAND, AND FOUR SITES AT SAI KUNG FOR INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

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NUMBER OF NEW PRIVATE CARS
REGISTERED LAST MONTH - A RECORD
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A TOTAL OF 6 154 NEW PRIVATE CARS WERE REGISTERED WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN FEBRUARY 1980 - THE HIGHEST FOR ANY SINGLE MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE FIGURE WAS NEARLY THREE TIMES MORE THAN THE 2 289 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS RECORDED IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PRIVATE CARS HAD INCREASED FROM 114 161 IN FEBRUARY 1977 TO 171 367 IN FEBRUARY 1980, A GROWTH OF MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OVER THREE YEARS. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS ALONE, THE INCREASE WAS ABOUT 17.5 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THERE HAS BEEN A GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF ALL CLASSES OF VEHICLES WITH PRIVATE CARS LEADING THE OTHERS.+

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MORE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN NT'S WESTERN REGION
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MORE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS ARE TO BE BUILT IN THE WESTERN REGION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE DECADE AS PART OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN POPULATION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K L THONG THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE NEW STAFF QUARTERS OF POK OI HOSPITAL.

IN KEEPING WITH THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID, PROJECTS PLANNED WOULD INCLUDE A 1 364-BED HOSPITAL AND A POLYCLINIC AT TUEN MUN.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUR-STORY STAFF QUARTERS OF POK OI HOSPITAL, HE SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY THE FIRST PHASE OF THE HOSPITAL'S PROPOSED LONG-TERM EXPANSION PLAN BEING EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE HOSPITAL TO UP-GRADE ITS FACILITIES TO A FULL DISTRICT HOSPITAL CAPACITY,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE HOSPITAL'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WAS COMPLETED, THE GROWING POPULATION IN YUEN LONG WOULD BE SERVED WITH CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED MEDICAL FACILITIES.

DR THONG ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HOSPITAL AND SAID: +THIS EXPANSION PROJECT IS YET ANOTHER EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

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MINI EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT

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A MINI EXHIBITION OF SAFETY APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT FOR INDUSTRY WILL BE STAGED IN THE NEW WORLD HOTEL ON MARCH 25 AS A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONFERENCE FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TO BE HELD IN THE SAME VENUE ON THAT DAY.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENTS PREVENTION SAID THE ONE-DAY EXHIBITION WOULD BE PARTICIPATED BY 18 COMPANIES WHICH ARE AGENTS OF SAFETY APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS.

PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY WILL INCLUDE SIMPLE PROTECTIVE GEARS SUCH AS SAFETY HELMETS, SAFETY SHOES, GOGGLES AND EAR-MUFFS FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, STRETCHERS, SAFETY HARNESES AND BELTS AS WELL AS MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SAFETY BREATHING APPARATUS, SOLDER-FUME ABSORBER AND TOXIC GAS DETECTOR.

A FULL RANGE OF FIRE-PREVENTION AND FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, SMOKE DETECTORS, EXTINGUISHERS AND FLAME RESISTANT CLOTHING WILL ALSO BE SHOWN.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE AND THEIR INVITED GUESTS AS WELL AS THE MANAGEMENT OF LARGE FACTORIES IN HONG KONG ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION.

+NO LESS THAN 800 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO SEE THE MINI EXHIBITION. IT IS HOPED THAT SENIOR MANAGEMENT IN INDUSTRIES WILL HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE SAFETY APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE LOCALLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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THREE PRE-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (TUESDAY) DECLARED THREE PRE-WAR BUILDINGS AT 269, 271 AND 273 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THESE THREE-STOREY BUILDINGS HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION SINCE 1967.

HE SAID: +RECENTLY LONG-STANDING FRACTURES IN THE LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS HAVE OPENED UP FURTHER AND CLEAR SIGNS OF CONTINUING MOVEMENT ARE INDICATED.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THESE BUILDINGS TO OBTAIN THE RISK OF A COLLAPSE,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON APRIL 2 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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NEW RULE IN SECOND MATE EXAMINATION

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT FROM JUNE 1, CANDIDATES FOR THE SECOND MATE (CLASS 3) CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY EXAMINATION MUST BE THE HOLDER OF THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATES:

- * SIGHT TEST CERTIFICATE,
- * EFFICIENT DECK HAND CERTIFICATE, AND
- * EFFICIENT LIFEBOATMAN CERTIFICATE.

THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATES MUST ALSO BE OBTAINED BEFORE A CANDIDATE QUALIFIES FOR THE ISSUE OF A SECOND MATE (CLASS 3) CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY:

- * RADAR OBSERVER CERTIFICATE,
- * FIRST AID AT SEA CERTIFICATE,
- * FIRE FIGHTING COURSE CERTIFICATE,
- * RESTRICTED CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN RADIO-TELEPHONY, AND
- * ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL AIDS (OPERATION) CERTIFICATE.

AT PRESENT, CANDIDATES FOR THIS EXAMINATION ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THESE CERTIFICATES, BUT A SECOND MATE (CLASS 3) CERTIFICATE WOULD ONLY BE ISSUED TO A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WHO POSSESSES ALL THESE CERTIFICATES.

THESE NEW REQUIREMENTS ALSO APPLY TO CANDIDATES FOR THE SECOND MATE (CLASS 4) EXAMINATION.

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