DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

RECREATION BOOM IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT 1
AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE 3
PRESS CONFERENCE BY VISITING MP 4
SEA MAIL SERVICES TO LEBANON TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED 4
LAND TO BE FORMED FOR EXPANSION OF SHEK WU HUI SEWAGE PLANT. 5
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN HO MAN TIN 6
WATER CUT IN CAUSEWAY BAY 6
AWARD PRESENTATION FOR C.A.S. CADETS 7

RECREATION BOOM IN SAI KUNG DISTRICT
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SAI KUNG DISTRICT IS TO BECOME THE MAIN CENTRE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OF ALL KINDS IN HONG KONG IN THE EARLY 1980'S, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. COLIN BOSHER, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE VICTORIA LIONS CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING AT THE HONG KONG HILTON, MR. BOSHER SAID THAT IT WILL +NOT BECOME JUST A ST. MORITZ, AN EXPENSIVE WATERING HOLE FOR THE AFFLUENT, BUT ALSO A PLAYGROUND FOR THE ORDINARY WORKING MAN AND HIS FAMILY.+

+THE SPIN-OFF FROM THIS WILL BE JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSMEN.

+IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE TWO SMALL SCALE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREAS PROVIDING MORE EMPLOYMENT.

+MORE WEALTH WILL BE IMPORTED BY THE UPPER INCOME PEOPLE WHO WILL CONTINUE TO MIGRATE TO THE DISTRICT AND WHO WILL NEED LOCAL SERVICES, SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS,+ HE SAID.

MR. BOSHER EXPLAINED THAT THE RECREATION INDUSTRY AND HIGH DEMAND FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL LAND ARE GIVING SAI KUNG +A UNIQUE IDENTITY UNRIVALLED BY OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

SAI KUNG IS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE DISTRICT HAS SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR BEACHES, INCLUDING CLEAR WATER BAY, SILVERSTRAND, KIU TSUI AND HAP MUN= BOATING WATERS, INCLUDING HEBE HAVEN AND THE WHOLE OF PORT SHELTER= AND HIKING, CAMPING AND PICNICKING AREAS, AND THE SAI KUNG EAST AND WEST COUNTRY PARKS.

FURTHER RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE DISTRICT. THESE INCLUDE :

* THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING THE GAZETTING OF MORE BEACHES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE FACILITIES. CLEAR WATER BAY BEACH WILL HAVE AN ACCESS ROAD, BEACH BUILDINGS AND A PROPER CAMPING AREA=

* MOORING FACILITIES AT HEBE HAVEN HAVE NOW REACHED CAPACITY, BUT PRIVATELY DEVELOPED MARINAS ARE ABOUT TO GO AHEAD AT PAK WAI AND ALSO AT PO TOI O IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOLF COURSE AND COUNTRY CLUB= AND

* THE COUNTRY PARKS ARE IMPLEMENTING A PLAN FOR A SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROPERLY CONTROLLED PUBLIC CAMPING SITES.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION, SAI KUNG DISTRICT HAS A HOLIDAY CAMP AND MR. BOSHER DESCRIBED IT AS +CHEAP,GOOD STANDARD ACCOMMODATION+ WHICH ORDINARY WORKING PEOPLE EARNING A DECENT WAGE CAN AFFORD AND WILL FIND ATTRACTIVE.

THE SAI KUNG CAMP NEAR SAI KUNG TOWN, RUN BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HAS BEEN OPEN FOR TWO YEARS. THE SERVICE WILL SOON OPEN A NEW ONE AT TSAK YUE WU INSIDE THE COUNTRY PARK.

THE NEW CAMP WILL HAVE A SWIMMING POOL AND SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ROLLER SKATING, TENNIS AND ARCHERY AND ITS PRICE IS ONLY $5 PER HEAD A NIGHT.

THE PO LEUNG KUK HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN A VERY VALUABLE PIECE OF LAND AT PAK TAM CHUNG TO ESTABLISH A SIMILAR CAMP.

A SMALL HOTEL HAS BEEN BUILT AT SHA HA AND IS DUE TO OPEN THIS YEAR.

AS FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY, HE SAID, IT HAS LONG BEEN FELT THAT THE RURAL AREAS SHOULD HAVE LAND RESERVED FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY TO BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMIES.

+TWO SUCH AREAS ARE PLANNED IN SAI KUNG, ONE AT HO CHUNG AND ANOTHER AT TUI MIN HOI, NEAR SAI KUNG TOWN.

+THE FIRST THREE SITES AT TUI MIN HOI WILL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION AND LETTER B TENDER IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH NEXT YEAR, AND WILL PROVIDE LOW RISE FLATTED SPACE SUITABLE FOR LIGHT ENGINEERING, PLASTICS AND TEXTILES,+ HE SAID.

MR. BOSHER SAID SAI KUNG DISTRICT HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING ITS OWN MINI-PROPERTY MARKET BOOM IN RECENT MONTHS.
+WE HELD AN AUCTION LAST MONTH WHICH SURPRISED US ALL BY THE INTENSITY OF THE BIDDING. UP FOR SALE WAS A 20,000 SQUARE FEET SITE AT SILVERSTRAND FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TO TWO STOREYS ONLY.

+OUR UPSET PRICE WAS MORE THAN DOUBLED AND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER TOOK THE SITE FOR $3.5 MILLION -- THIS WORKS OUT AT $177 SQUARE FOOT OR $444 SQUARE FOOT ACCOMMODATION VALUE -- DOUBLE OUR VALUATION A YEAR AGO.

+THERE IS STILL ABOUT 100 ACRES OF LAND WITHIN THE MINOR RESIDENTIAL LAYOUTS WHICH COULD BE DISPOSED OF.

+THERE IS AN EVER-GROWING DEMAND FOR HOUSING WHICH IS NOT IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, FROM PEOPLE WHO WISH TO LIVE OUT OF THE CITY AND WHO ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE DAILY JOURNEY TO THE CITY TO WORK,+ MR. BOSHER ADDED.

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AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

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WORK ON THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE HAS PASSED THE HALF WAY MARK, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

THE $12 MILLION BRIDGE -- THE FIRST TO LINK HONG KONG WITH AN OFFSHORE ISLAND -- IS ANOTHER LINK IN THE LONG CHAIN THAT WILL BRING THE RURAL AREAS CLOSER.

THE BRIDGE WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH ON THE ISLAND WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS SUPPORTED A SMALL FISHING COMMUNITY.

BY MID-1979 THE FIRST CAR SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRIVE ACROSS FROM ABERDEEN.

AND WHEN THE $280 MILLION ABERDEEN TUNNEL IS COMPLETED ABOUT A YEAR LATER THERE WILL BE A FAST AND DIRECT ROUTE OUT TO THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE 230-METRE-LONG BRIDGE WILL CARRY TWO LANES OF TRAFFIC WITH A CAPACITY OF 1,500 VEHICLES AN HOUR. IT WILL ALSO CARRY A WATER MAIN AND OTHER ESSENTIAL UTILITIES.

A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TO ACCOMMODATE 19,000 PEOPLE IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE ISLAND.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. CHAN NAI-KEUNG, TODAY MADE AN INSPECTION TOUR OF THE PROJECT AND SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS MADE.

MR. CHAN ALSO VISITED THE SOUTHERN PORTAL OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL. THIS PROJECT IS NOW ON SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS WAS GOOD.

SAID MR. CHAN: +THE GROUTING WORK UNDERTAKEN, AT THE SOUTHERN PORTALS SITE, TO OVERCOME CERTAIN PROBLEMS POSED BY GROUND WATER SEEPAGE AND DECOMPOSED MATERIAL, IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

+AT THE NORTHERN PORTALS NEARLY 100 METRES OF TUNNELLING WORK HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.+

NEARLY 400 WORKMEN ARE EMPLOYED ON THIS PROJECT.

ACCOMPANYING MR. CHAN ON HIS TOUR TODAY WERE DR. CHOI YU-LEUK, CHIEF ENGINEER FROM THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE= MR. R.A. COCHRANE, A PARTNER IN MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA= MR. DEREK BARTLETT, CHIEF RESIDENT ENGINEER FOR THE TUNNEL PROJECT= AND MR. A. HAMILTON, SENIOR RESIDENT ENGINEER FOR THE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONFERENCE BY VISITING MP
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THE VISITING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MR. RICHARD LUCE (CONSERVATIVE, SHOREHAM WEST SUSSEX) WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) AT 4.30 P.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

MR. LUCE ARRIVED ON SEPTEMBER 11 FOR AN EIGHT-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE CONFERENCE. RADIO AND T.V. REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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MAIL SERVICES TO LEBANON
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT SURFACE LETTER AND PARCEL SERVICES TO LEBANON ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO THE LACK OF SHIPPING OUTLETS AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEBANESE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THAT NO LETTERS OR PARCELS FOR DESPATCH TO LEBANON BY SEA WILL BE ACCEPTED AT POST OFFICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

HOWEVER, AIRMAIL SERVICES TO LEBANON IS STILL MAINTAINED.

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LAND TO BE FORMED FOR SEWAGE PLANT'S EXPANSION

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO FORM ABOUT SIX HECTARES OF LAND NEXT TO THE SHEK WU HUI SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR ITS FUTURE EXPANSION.

CONTRACT FOR THE WORK, COSTING ABOUT $24 MILLION, WAS FORMALLY SIGNED TODAY AT THE SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

MR. BOSCO KEOWN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TAI PO AND FAN LING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE P.W.D. AND MR. MAKOTO UZAWA FOR THE CONTRACTOR, SHIMIZU CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. OF JAPAN.

MR. KEOWN SAID: +THE CONTRACT, WHICH INCLUDES DRAINAGE WORKS IN THE AREA SOUTHEAST OF SO KWUN PO VILLAGE, IS PART OF THE $1,300 MILLION PROJECT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP THE MARKET TOWNS OF SHEK WU HUI AND FAN LING.+

THE DRAINAGE WORKS, HE ADDED, WERE PART OF A MAJOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR THE TOWN.

MR. KEOWN SAID THAT A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WOULD BE BUILT AT THE LONG VALLEY AREA TO ACCOMMODATE 6,500 PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TOWN.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT

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THE FIRST OF FOUR STAGES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN HO MAN TIN AND KOWLOON TONG DURING HORSE RACING IN SHA TIN WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 15).

THIS INVOLVES THE BANNING OF RIGHT TURN FROM WATERLOO ROAD ON TO ESSEX CRESCENT.

MOTORISTS CAN EITHER USE THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES BY MAKING A G-TURN VIA DURHAM ROAD, CAMBRIDGE ROAD AND LANCASHIRE ROAD OR PROCEED ALONG WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND, U-TURN UNDER THE FLYOVER NEAR BOUNDARY STREET ON TO WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADVISED MOTORISTS THAT WHEN THE RACING SEASON STARTS IN SHA TIN THEY SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO FIND PARKING SPACES IN SHA TIN.

+THERE ARE NO PARKING SPACES IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHA TIN RACE-COURSE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC,+ HE EMPHASISED.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED MOTORISTS TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT INSTEAD. +THERE WILL BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT BUSES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY WILL BE LAYING ON EXTRA SPECIAL TRAIN.+

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WATER CUT IN CAUSEWAY BAY

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY EAST POINT ROAD, NO. 493-563 YEE WOO STREET, NO. 490-552 AND NO. 485-545 LOCKHART ROAD, NO. 476-532 AND NO. 481-499 JAFFE ROAD INCLUDING NEW YORK CINEMA AND LAKE SIDE BUILDING.

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AWARD PRESENTATION FOR C.A.S. CADETS
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MORE THAN 140 CADETS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CADET CORPS WILL RECEIVE SILVER AND BRONZE AWARDS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) AT 8 P.M. AT THE C.A.S. KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE.

ELEVEN RECIPIENTS WILL RECEIVE THE SILVER AWARD AND 130 OTHERS WILL RECEIVE THE BRONZE.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE OFFICIATED BY THE CADET COMMANDANT, MR. NORMAN LEUNG AND HIS THREE ASSISTANTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 8 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 15 AT THE CIVIL AID SERVICES KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET.

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