



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1979

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HK GROUP TO STUDY EUROPEAN LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEMS

A SIX-MAN TEAM, COMPRISING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND A CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM, LEFT FOR EUROPE TONIGHT (THURSDAY) TO STUDY THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

DURING THEIR TWO-WEEK TOUR, THE DELEGATES FROM THE ISLAND CORRIDOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES (ICISIS) TEAM WILL VISIT SWITZERLAND, WEST GERMANY AND HOLLAND.

LED BY DR. NIP KAM-FAN, GOVERNMENT HIGHWAYS ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE TEAM COMPRISED MR. TSOH MING FROM PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE= MR. J.P. WILSON FROM POLICE TRAFFIC HEAD-QUARTERS= MR. T.V. RUNNACLES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT= MR. NIGEL WILSON OF THE MTRC AND MR. S. COVENTRY OF THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MESSRS. MARTIN AND VOORHEES ASSOCIATES.

SPEAKING BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, DR. NIP SAID: +THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) SYSTEM PROPOSED FOR THE ISLAND CORRIDOR IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER TRANSPORT SYSTEM OPERATING IN HONG KONG TODAY.

+ALTHOUGH THE LRT SYSTEM IS DEVELOPED BY UPGRADING THE EXISTING TRAM SYSTEM, THE VEHICLES TO BE USED HAVE A MUCH HIGHER PERFORMANCE.

+THE SYSTEM MAY CARRY UP TO THREE TIMES THE NUMBER OF TRAM PASSENGERS DURING PEAK HOURS AND THE TRACK WOULD BE SEGREGATED FROM OTHER ROAD USERS FOR A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF ITS LENGTH.+

DR. NIP POINTED OUT THAT MOST LRT SYSTEMS OVERSEAS WERE DEVELOPED IN PLACES THAT HAD ALREADY OPERATED AN EXTENSIVE STREET TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

IN MANY CASES, HE SAID, THE STREET TRAMWAY HAD EVOLVED OVER TIME AND INCORPORATED A VARIETY OF OPERATING FEATURES INCLUDING ROLLING STOCK.

+THE LRT DESIGN WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TECHNICAL COMPATIBILITY CONSTRAINTS INTERNAL TO THE OPERATING ORGANISATION AS WELL AS EXTERNAL OPERATING CONDITION,+ HE SAID.

+EXTERNAL OPERATING CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG ARE AS SEVERE AS ANY CITY IN THE WORLD AND INCLUDE A VARIETY OF FEATURES THAT NO OTHER CITY EXPERIENCES IN QUITE THE SAME COMBINATION.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, THE PROPOSED LRT SYSTEM IS BEING PLANNED TO INCORPORATE A NUMBER OF PROVEN TECHNICAL FEATURES USED IN OTHER CITIES BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN THE SAME COMBINATION.+

DR. NIP SAID THE TEAM WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HOW DIFFERENT TYPES OF SEGREGATION HAD WORKED IN PRACTICE OR HOW A SIGNAL PRE-EMPTION SYSTEM HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO FACILITATE A FAST AND RELIABLE SERVICE WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHER ROAD USERS.

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CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY TAKES NEW FORM
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CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY (CI) FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL WILL BE ISSUED IN A NEW FORM FROM MARCH 5, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR. R.G.B. BRIDGE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

A NEW PROCESS WILL BE USED BY WHICH THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HOLDER WILL BE ENGRAVED IN TWO PLACES IN THE DOCUMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW STYLE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE IT +VERY DIFFICULT+ FOR FORGERS TO ALTER THE DOCUMENT.

AS THESE NEW TRAVEL PAPERS WILL TAKE 10 WORKING DAYS TO PROCESS, THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED ALL TRAVELLERS REQUIRING THIS DOCUMENT TO APPLY WELL BEFORE THEY PLAN THEIR JOURNEY.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED AT IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICES AND IN THE CHINESE RESIDENTS SECTION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 14TH FLOOR, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING.

THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OF THE DOCUMENT.

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RECORD PASSENGER TRAFFIC TO CHINA DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD
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THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY MOVED 163,000 PEOPLE INTO CHINA DURING THE JANUARY 23-30 LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD. OF THESE 121,000 TRAVELLED BETWEEN JANUARY 26-30.

+THE OVERALL FIGURES ARE THE HIGHEST RECORDED BY KCR IN ITS HISTORY AND REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 23.5 PER CENT OVER THE 1978 FIGURES WHICH, BY ITSELF, WAS PREVIOUSLY THE ALL-TIME RECORD FIGURE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR KCR SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+THE SPECIAL TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS AGREED WITH THE CANTON RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION WORKED EXCELLENTLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE SAID NOT ONLY WERE MORE TRAINS OPERATED THIS YEAR BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, THE CONNECTING TRAINS FROM SHUM CHUN TO CANTON STARTED MUCH EARLIER THAN IN PAST YEARS -- THE CONGESTION PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED IN THE EARLY MORNING AT LO WU WAS AVOIDED.

+THIS, COUPLED WITH SOME MINOR PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS AT LO WU WHICH FACILITATED A FREER FLOW OF PASSENGERS RESULTED IN A MUCH IMPROVED THROUGH TRANSIT FOR PASSENGERS,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE TREMENDOUS CO-OPERATION OF THE POLICE, CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS WHOSE STAFF, LIKE THOSE OF KCR, WORKED LONG HOURS THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR PERIOD, PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN A MOST SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.+

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KCR APPEALS TO PUBLIC ON SAFETY
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MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SHOULD NOT EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO DANGER WHILE ON THE RAILWAY.

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, MR. D.M. HOWES SAID THIS IN EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN AT CONTINUING CASES OF INJURY SUSTAINED BY PEOPLE WHILE ON OR ABOUT THE RAILWAY.

+MANY SECTIONS OF THE RAILWAY ARE IRREGULARLY USED BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AS A FOOTPATH. BY DOING THIS THEY ARE EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO CONSTANT DANGER,+ MR. HOWES SAID.

OTHER INJURIES, HE SAID, ARE SUSTAINED BY PASSENGERS JUMPING DOWN FROM TRAINS OR CROSSING THE TRACK AND BY CARELESS BEHAVIOUR GENERALLY.

MR. HOWES SAID THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO RISK EITHER THROUGH TRESPASS ON THE RAILWAY OR BY UNTHINKING ACTION ON TRAINS OR AT STATIONS.

+THE RAILWAY TRACK IS BASICALLY A DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE, TRAINS REQUIRE SOME DISTANCE TO STOP AND RISK THEREFORE IS ATTENDANT ON EVERYBODY WHO DOES NOT BEHAVE IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER,+ HE SAID.

+ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS AN UNREASONABLE AND ADDED STRAIN IMPOSED ON THE LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS AND EVEN WITH THE VIGILANCE THEY EXERCISE, UNCERTAINTY IS CREATED IN THE MINDS OF DRIVERS AS TO WHETHER THE PEOPLE WILL MOVE CLEAR IN TIME EVEN AFTER AUDIBLE WARNING HAS BEEN GIVEN,+ MR. HOWES SAID.

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LAI CHI KOK MENTAL HOSPITAL

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THE NEW LAI CHI KOK MENTAL HOSPITAL IS GROWING RAPIDLY, AND SHOULD BE FINISHED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

STANDING ON AN 11-HECTARE SITE, THE HOSPITAL WAS DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WHEN FINISHED IT WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 1,336 BEDS AND, AS A PWD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED TODAY (THURSDAY), +SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS EASING THE PRESSURE ON EXISTING FACILITIES AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW LAI CHI KOK HOSPITAL WOULD CATER MAINLY FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS WHOSE CONDITION WAS AMENDABLE TO TREATMENT, AS WELL AS FOR VOLUNTARY AND INFIRMARY PATIENTS.

THE PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THE HOSPITAL WAS DESIGNED AS A MULTI-LEVEL PROJECT, LEAVING AS MUCH SPACE AS POSSIBLE FOR RECREATIONAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSIOTHERAPY ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID GREATER PROVISION HAS TO BE MADE FOR THESE ACTIVITIES THAN IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL +BECAUSE OF THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF MENTAL PATIENTS.+

THE MALE AND FEMALE WARD BLOCKS WILL BE LINKED TO A FOUR-STOREY CLINICAL AND SERVICE BLOCK BY A SYSTEM OF SUBWAYS, ENABLING MORE SPACE IN THE UPPER GROUND AREAS TO BE LANDSCAPED AS RECREATIONAL GARDENS.

THE PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A ROOF GARDEN, A THEATRE FOR FILM SHOWS, CONCERTS OR INDOOR SPORTS, SHOP AND SOFT DRINK BAR, HAIR DRESSING SALON, A LIBRARY, READING ROOMS, A FOOTBALL PITCH AND A BASKETBALL COURT.

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LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
EXAMINATION 1979 SUMMER SERIES
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THE NEXT LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY EXAMINATIONS WILL HOLD IN HONG KONG BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY THIS YEAR.

AN EXPANDED RANGE OF THE EXAMINATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED TO INCLUDE MOST SINGLE SUBJECTS AT THE ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE AND HIGHER STAGES.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE SINGLE SUBJECT COMPONENTS OF THE BUSINESS STUDIES CERTIFICATE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE. NO HIGHER STAGE GROUP DIPLOMAS CAN BE ENTERED FOR UNTIL THE AUTUMN SERIES EXAMINATIONS IN NOVEMBER--DECEMBER.

CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION BY ATTENDING COURSES IN SCHOOLS SHOULD REGISTER THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS WHILE CANDIDATES NOT PRESENTED BY SCHOOLS MAY APPLY AS PRIVATE CANDIDATES.

COPIES OF INFORMATION SHEET --- TIMETABLE ARE NOW AVAILABLE AND ENTRY FORMS, BETWEEN FEBRUARY 5 AND FEBRUARY 9 AT:

* HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY SUB-OFFICE,
17 TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

* HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY MAIN OFFICE,
CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
393 CANTON ROAD, 11TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

INFORMATION SHEETS AND APPLICATION FORMS MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY MAIL BY SENDING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:

* THE ASSISTANT EXAMINATIONS OFFICER (LCC),
HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY,
17 TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS FOR PRIVATE CANDIDATES, TOGETHER WITH A PASSPORT OR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD (JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A PHOTO-BEARING DOCUMENT) AND TWO RECENT, IDENTICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE APPLICANT (2-1/2" X 2") MUST BE PRESENTED IN PERSON AT 17 TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 5 TO 9 INCLUSIVE.

CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED THAT NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXAMINATION FEES MUST BE PAID WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE DATE OF REGISTRATION.

METHODS OF PAYMENT ARE DESCRIBED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE DEMAND NOTES ISSUED TO CANDIDATES AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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