



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1977

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TOP GOVT. OFFICIALS SEE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS
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TEN TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TODAY SPENT THE WHOLE DAY SEEING FOR THEMSELVES THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEVELOPMENTS OF THE THREE NEW TOWNS OF TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN AND THE FAST GROWING MARKET TOWN OF YUEN LONG.

THEY WERE GIVEN A FULL BRIEFING ON PROGRESS AS WELL AS THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRANSFORMING THE AREAS INTO MODERN TOWNS FOR A COMBINED ESTIMATED POPULATION OF OVER 1.1 MILLION BY 1980.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN THE THREE NEW TOWNS ALONE WILL COST THE GOVERNMENT AN ESTIMATED \$457 MILLION IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE PARTY COMPRISED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. R. BUTLER= SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. L.M. DAVIES= DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. K.G.B. BRIDGE= DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. E.P. HO= DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. J.N. HENDERSON= DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. W.C. BELL= DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR. H.S. GREWAL= ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. D. HOGAN= PRINCIPAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER, DR. C.Y. SAM= AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR. RICHARD LAI.

THIS MORNING, THEY JOINED THE REGULAR PASSENGERS ON A 15-MINUTE NORMAL HOVERFERRY RUN FROM CENTRAL TO TSUEN WAN TO START THEIR DAY-LONG TOUR.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN TODD= THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR. J.R. WHITAKER, AND THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR. J.D. JOHNSTON.

THE OFFICIAL PARTY SPENT THE NEXT HOUR OR SO SEEING THE PROGRESS AND DISCUSSING SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG'S FASTEST GROWING NEW TOWN.

TSUEN WAN, ALREADY A WELL-ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIAL TOWN OF NEARLY 500,000 PEOPLE, WILL HAVE A PLANNED POPULATION OF MORE THAN 900,000 BY MID-80S.

THE TOUR THEN TOOK THE PARTY TO THE LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN WHERE, FROM THE TOP OF THE ESTATE BUILDING, THEY LOOKED AT THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEW TOWN WHICH WOULD BOOST THE POPULATION THERE BY MORE THAN 20,000 IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THEY SAW INCLUDED THE FIRST STAGE OF THE WO CHE ESTATE, WHICH WAS DUE TO BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR PROVIDING MORE THAN 2,000 FLATS FOR ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE.

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THE SECOND STAGE OF THE PROJECT, DUE FOR COMPLETION AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR, COMPRISES A COMMERCIAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH SHOPS, LIBRARY, A SCHOOL FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, COMMUNITY HALL, YOUTH CENTRE, CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND 4,500 SQUARE FEET OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SPACE AROUND A TERRACED GARDEN.

BEFORE THEY WENT TO YUEN LONG, THE PARTY HAD A WORKING LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT ISLAND HOUSE IN TAI PO, WHERE THEY VIEWED THE PROGRESS ON THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT.

IN YUEN LONG, THEY WERE TOLD WORK WAS TO START SOON ON THE FIRST STAGE OF A PLAN TO TRANSFORM YUEN LONG INTO A MARKET TOWN OF 90,000.

THE FIRST STAGE, COSTING \$30 MILLION, WOULD INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF EXISTING ROADS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONES, DRAINAGE WORKS, A LARGE BUS TERMINUS, AND A PART OF A HOUSING ESTATE THAT WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE HOMES FOR ABOUT 3,500 PEOPLE.

THE LAST STOP OF THE TOUR WAS IN TUEN MUN WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO SHA TIN.

LIKE SHA TIN, TUEN MUN HAS A POPULATION OF AROUND 50,000 WHICH WILL GROW TO HALF A MILLION BY THE MID-80S WITH A 70 PER CENT PUBLIC HOUSING COMPONENT.

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NEW ADDRESS FOR KOWLOON CITY C.D.O.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (KOWLOON CITY) WILL MOVE FROM ITS PRESENT PREMISES IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO NO. 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD THIS WEEKEND.

OCCUPYING THE FIRST AND PART OF THE GROUND FLOORS OF THE MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, THE NEW OFFICE WILL START OPERATING FROM SATURDAY (MARCH 26).

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR FEBRUARY 1977 WAS 118, THREE POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY SIX POINTS. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH, FRESH WATER FISH, PORK, LIVE POULTRY AND FRESH VEGETABLES ADVANCED AS A RESULT OF HEAVY DEMAND DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR AND A REDUCTION IN SUPPLIES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ROSE BY FOUR POINTS, MAINLY BECAUSE OF TEMPORARY HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. THE FOUR-POINT RISE IN THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO INCREASED CHARGES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ADVANCED BY ONE POINT OWING TO HIGHER ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOLLOWING INCREASED COST OF FUEL OIL.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR THE OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR FEBRUARY 1977 WAS 118, THREE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS MONTH RECORD.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY FIVE POINTS. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH, FRESH WATER FISH, PORK, LIVE POULTRY AND FRESH VEGETABLES ADVANCED AS A RESULT OF HEAVY DEMAND DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR AND A REDUCTION IN SUPPLIES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES ROSE BY THREE POINTS, MAINLY BECAUSE OF TEMPORARY HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIRDRESSING BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. THE TWO-POINT RISE IN THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO INCREASED CHARGES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT ADVANCED BY ONE POINT OWING TO HIGHER ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOLLOWING INCREASED COST OF FUEL OIL.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR THE OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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1976 CENSUS OF INDUSTRY UNDER WAY
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AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1973 CENSUS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF INDUSTRY FOR THE YEAR 1976.

THE CENSUS IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENSUS ORDER 1977 MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER THE CENSUS ORDINANCE.

THE CENSUS COVERS ACTIVITIES IN MINING, QUARRYING, MANUFACTURING, AND THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND GAS. ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, WHICH WILL BE OF USE TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES IN ARRIVING AT DECISIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES.

INFORMATION SOUGHT INCLUDES EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR COST, MATERIAL PURCHASES AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES, SALES AND WORK DONE, STOCKS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOME 7,500 INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WHICH COMPRISE ALL ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGING 100 OR MORE PERSONS AND A RANDOM SAMPLE OF THE SMALLER CONCERNS. STATISTICS COLLECTED FROM THE SAMPLE WILL BE GROSSED UP SO THAT THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OVERALL TOTALS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED FOR THE COOPERATION OF MANAGERMENTS OF THE SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CENSUS.

IN ORDER TO PERMIT PROMPT PROCESSING AND EARLY RELEASE OF SURVEY RESULTS, INDUSTRIALISTS ARE REQUESTED TO HAVE THE FORMS COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN CASE OF ANY DIFFICULTY, INDUSTRIALISTS CAN APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND A CENSUS OFFICER WILL VISIT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE FORMS.

INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THIS CENSUS WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR COMPILING STATISTICAL TABLES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CENSUS ORDINANCE, FIGURES SUPPLIED BY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

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ROAD CLOSURES

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PARTS OF ARTHUR STREET AND MAN MING LANE IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS STARTING FROM SATURDAY (MARCH 26) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF ENTRANCES TO WATERLOO STATION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

THE SECTION OF ARTHUR STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH MAN MING LANE RUNNING SOUTHWARDS FOR ABOUT 12 METRES AND THE PART OF MAN MING LANE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ARTHUR STREET RUNNING EASTWARDS FOR ABOUT FIVE METRES ARE TO BE CLOSED DURING THIS PERIOD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS WILL BE MAINTAINED.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT AND WAN CHAI ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND KOWLOON TONG IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25).

THIS IS TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED IN CENTRAL DISTRICT AND WAN CHAI ARE THOSE IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, ICE HOUSE STREET, MURRAY ROAD, QUEENSWAY, LAMBETH WALK, HARCOURT ROAD, AND ARSENAL STREET, INCLUDING FENWICK STREET PIER, AND HONG KONG RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED IN KOWLOON TONG ARE BOUNDED BY WATERLOO ROAD, HEREFORD ROAD, LA SALLE ROAD, AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, INCLUDING EARL STREET, BOUNDARY STREET, HO TUNG ROAD, OXFORD ROAD, FLINT ROAD, CHESTER ROAD, DERBY ROAD, LANCASHIRE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, MORAY ROAD, SELKIRK ROAD, HAMPSHIRE ROAD, DURHAM ROAD, AND WILTSHIRE ROAD.

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