



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1974

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PRISON WORKSHOPS TO TURN FURNITURE MANUFACTURER *****

A WIDER USE OF HONG KONG'S PRISON WORKSHOPS IS BEING MADE WITH A VIEW TO TRANSFORMING THEM INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN SUPPLIER OF FURNITURE.

AND THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS AN EXPANDING UTILISATION OF THE PRISON INDUSTRY HAS JUST BEEN TAKEN.

THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY PLACED AN ORDER ON THE PRISON WORKSHOPS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MORE THAN 1,000 ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR USE IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, OFFICES AND QUARTERS. IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT THE PRISON INDUSTRIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE MANUFACTURE OF MANY OF THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THIS ORDER.

THE ORDER, WHICH REPRESENTS FURNITURE WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$200,000, WAS TODAY DESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. FRED YOUNG, AS A MODEST STEP IN A CONTINUING PROCESS OF ULTIMATELY TURNING THE PRISON INDUSTRY INTO A MAIN MANUFACTURER OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES.+

BY TURNING TO THE PRISON WORKSHOPS AS A MANUFACTURER OF FURNITURE, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT GREATER ECONOMY THAN WAS THE CASE WHEN ORDERS FOR SUPPLY WERE TAKEN UP BY OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS.

+PRODUCTION BY PRISON LABOUR WOULD LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL SAVING IN LABOUR COSTS AND GREATER COST EFFECTIVENESS,+ HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT, GOVERNMENT FURNITURE IS MANUFACTURED BY A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CONTRACTORS OPERATING ON A COMPETITIVE TENDER BASIS. THE VALUE OF FURNITURE PRODUCED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IS ESTIMATED AT \$4 MILLION.

AS A LONG-TERM ECONOMY MEASURE, MR. YOUNG HOPED TO SEE THE PRISON WORKSHOPS TAKING OVER THE MANUFACTURING FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ALL FURNITURE, UNIFORMS AND METAL WORK TOGETHER WITH THE REPAIRING OF TYPEWRITERS IN FUTURE.

+THIS WILL PROVE TO BE A SLOW BUT CONTINUING PROCESS AND WILL TAKE TIME TO MATERIALISE,+ HE OBSERVED. +HOWEVER, WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRISON WORKSHOPS WILL LIVE UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS IN THE END,+ SAID THE DIRECTOR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SAVINGS TO BE DERIVED FROM SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL UTILISATION OF THE PRISON LABOUR WOULD ADD UP TO SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

HE DISCLOSED THAT ORDERS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FURNITURE PLACED WITH THE PRISON DEPARTMENT +WILL BE STEPPED UP GRADUALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE LABOUR CAPABILITY AVAILABLE IN THE PRISONS.+

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COMMENTING ON THE INITIAL ORDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF FURNITURE, MR. WALLACE KNIGHT, SUPERINTENDENT (INDUSTRY) OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, SAID TODAY THAT +IT MARKED THE ENCOURAGING START OF AN INCREASING UTILISATION OF PRISON INDUSTRIES FOR GOVERNMENT NEEDS.+

HE WELCOMED THE MOVE IN THAT IT WOULD INJECT A NEW ELEMENT OF SPECIALISATION AND PURPOSE IN THE PRISON WORKSHOPS AS FAR AS WOODWORK AND CARPENTRY WERE CONCERNED.

HOWEVER, TO ENSURE PROPER QUALITY OF OUTPUT AND CONTROL, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BUILD UP THE MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISORY AND INSTRUCTING FORCE TO KEEP ABREAST OF ORDERS PLACED AND TO ENSURE INCREASE IN OUTPUT.

REFERRING TO THE PROVISION OF CRAFTSMANSHIP TRAINING IN HONG KONG'S PENAL INSTITUTIONS, MR. KNIGHT SAID: +THE CARDINAL AIM OF THE PRISON INDUSTRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ENSURE THAT INMATES ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED DURING THEIR TERM OF SENTENCE AND TO ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE SKILLS WHICH WILL STAND THEM IN GOOD STEAD IN THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET UPON THEIR RELEASE.+

HE ADDED THAT SOME 3,500 INMATES WERE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRIAL WORK AND OBTAINING SOME TRAINING IN PRISON WORKSHOPS.

AT PRESENT, PRISON INDUSTRIES PRODUCE MOST TRAFFIC SIGNS AND FLAGS AS WELL AS A SIZABLE PROPORTION OF UNIFORMS AND SHOES FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

LAST YEAR, GOODS VALUED AT \$8.5 MILLION AT THE MARKET PRICE WERE TURNED OUT BY THE PRISON WORKSHOPS AT A COST OF ONLY \$3 MILLION TO GOVERNMENT.

MEANWHILE, PLANS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION TO STREAMLINE AND EXPAND THE EXISTING MANUFACTURING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES IN HONG KONG'S PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

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TONG MI ROAD EXTENSION OPENING TO TRAFFIC
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A NEW THREE-LANE EXTENSION OF TONG MI ROAD IN KOWLOON WILL BE OPENED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY PROVIDING A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE JORDAN ROAD-CANTON ROAD JUNCTION IN YAU MA TEI AND THE CHERRY STREET-ARGYLE STREET JUNCTION IN MONG KOK.

THE EXTENSION, STRETCHING FROM SAIGON STREET TO THE NEWLY-OPENED ARGYLE STREET JUNCTION ALONG THE BACK OF THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, WILL SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO NATHAN ROAD FOR TRAFFIC TRAVELLING FROM TSIM SHA TSUI TO LAI CHI KOK AND BEYOND.

CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE ROAD EXTENSION. ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS, AND TO LOAD OR UNLOAD GOODS DURING THE CLEARWAY HOURS BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 7 P.M.

NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL JOIN THE NEW ROAD FROM JORDAN ROAD AND EXIT AT ARGYLE STREET JUNCTION, WHILE SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL JOIN THE ROAD FROM THE ARGYLE STREET-CHERRY STREET JUNCTION.

CONNECTIONS AT THE JUNCTIONS OF WATERLOO ROAD AND KANSU STREET WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC SHORTLY.

ALSO FROM TUESDAY, NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN YAU MA TEI.

THE EXISTING CANTON ROAD SECTION WEST OF KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PARK WILL BE CLOSED. VEHICLES USING THIS ROAD SECTION WILL BE ROUTED TO THE NEW RE-ALIGNED CANTON ROAD SECTION TO THE WEST.

THE EXISTING GAP OPENING AT THE CENTRAL DIVIDER OF JORDAN ROAD OPPOSITE THE EXISTING CANTON ROAD WILL BE CLOSED. TRAFFIC CROSSING THIS OPENING FOR NORTHBOUND MOVEMENT AT CANTON ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NORTHERN CARRIAGEWAY OF JORDAN ROAD VIA THE JUNCTION OF JORDAN ROAD AND RE-ALIGNED CANTON ROAD. TRAFFIC CROSSING THIS GAP FOR SOUTHBOUND MOVEMENT AT CANTON ROAD WILL BE ROUTED TO THE EASTERN CARRIAGEWAY OF RE-ALIGNED CANTON ROAD VIA THE JUNCTION OF JORDAN ROAD AND RE-ALIGNED CANTON ROAD.

THE EXISTING GAP OPENING AT THE CENTRAL DIVIDER OF FERRY STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH JORDAN ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED. VEHICLES CROSSING THIS OPENING TO GO TO THE PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS AND VEHICULAR FERRY CONCOURSE WILL BE ROUTED TO THE ENTRANCES AT THE WESTERN CARRIAGEWAY OF FERRY STREET VIA THE JUNCTION OF JORDAN ROAD AND FERRY STREET.

TRAFFIC ROUTING WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR VEHICLES GOING INTO AND OUT OF THE BUS TERMINUS AND THE VEHICULAR FERRY CONCOURSE.

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CERTIFICATES FOR LONDON G.C.E. EXAMINATION
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CERTIFICATES FOR THE LONDON G.C.E. EXAMINATION HELD IN JUNE THIS YEAR ARE NOW READY FOR COLLECTION BY PRIVATE CANDIDATES, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

PRIVATE CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO COLLECT THEIR CERTIFICATES ON THE DATES SPECIFIED IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL NOTICES POSTED TO THEM RECENTLY.

ONLY CANDIDATES WHO HAVE OBTAINED A PASS IN ONE OR MORE SUBJECTS ARE AWARDED CERTIFICATES.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT RECEIVE NOTICES FOR COLLECTION BY DECEMBER 13, 1974, ARE REQUESTED TO CALL IN PERSON DURING OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN DECEMBER 16 AND DECEMBER 18, AT THE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE AT ARSENAL STREET POLICE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WAN CHAI. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO BRING WITH THEM THEIR ADMISSION FORMS OR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND RESULTS SLIPS.

IF A CANDIDATE IS UNABLE TO COME IN PERSON, HE MAY AUTHORISE SOMEONE TO COLLECT HIS CERTIFICATE ON HIS BEHALF PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORISED PERSON COMES WITH HIS OWN IDENTITY CARD, THE AUTHORISATION LETTER AND THE CANDIDATE'S ADMISSION FORM.

CERTIFICATES NOT COLLECTED WILL BE SENT TO EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KOWLOON FOR RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AT A LATER STAGE.

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