



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1983

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\$232-MILLION CONTRACT FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDING
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THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$232-MILLION CONTRACT TO GAMMON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION LTD. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING AT QUEENSWAY.

THE CONTRACT, ONE OF THE BIGGEST LET BY THE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR, WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR JOSE LEI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, AND MR G.E. LONG, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY.

THE BUILDING, TO BE SITUATED JUST NEXT TO THE NEW SUPREME COURT BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT QUEENSWAY, WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT 36 MONTHS.

THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE 47 STOREYS HIGH WITH A FOUR-STOREY PODIUM. ADJACENT TO IT WILL BE A SEVEN-STOREY +L+ SHAPE BLOCK.

UPON COMPLETION TOWARDS THE END OF 1986, MR LEI SAID, THE NEW BUILDING WOULD PROVIDE ABOUT 54 000 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND CAR PARKING FACILITIES.

THIS IS ONE OF THE OFFICE COMPLEXES BEING BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP REDUCE THE SHORTFALL OF GOVERNMENT OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HE SAID, WERE AN EIGHT-STOREY BLOCK IN SAI KUNG, A NINE-STOREY BUILDING ABOVE THE SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION, A SEVEN-STOREY BLOCK IN TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE AND THE 27-STOREY HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

+THE LARGEST OF ALL WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX AT HARBOUR ROAD ON WAN CHAI RECLAMATION,+ HE SAID.

THE COMPLEX, ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$1.5 BILLION, WILL COMPRISE SIX BLOCKS OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS - A DISTRICT/MAGISTRACY BUILDING, A SCIENCE BUILDING, A PUBLIC CAR PARK, A FIRE STATION AND TWO OFFICE TOWERS.

MR LEI SAID THAT THE TWO OFFICE TOWERS, BOTH OF THEM 49 STOREYS HIGH, WOULD PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 200 000 SQUARE METRES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICE SPACE.

+ALL THESE, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE SPACE REQUIREMENT,+ HE ADDED.

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GRANTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS INCREASED
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STUDENTS AT TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGES AND APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WILL BENEFIT FROM A 50 PER CENT INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND LOANS TO BE EFFECTIVE THIS COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.

AT PRESENT, STUDENTS TAKING COURSES AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE AND AT THE APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES CAN APPLY EACH YEAR FOR A MAXIMUM GRANT OF \$2 000 PLUS A LOAN OF \$2 400, OR IN SOME CASES A LOAN OF \$4 400. THESE AMOUNTS WILL NOW BE INCREASED TO \$3 000, \$3 600 AND \$6 600 RESPECTIVELY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THIS INCREASE SHOULD OFFSET THE RISE IN COST OF LIVING SINCE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS SET IN SEPTEMBER, 1979.

FURTHERMORE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE REAL VALUE OF ASSISTANCE COULD BE MAINTAINED, THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY IN FUTURE TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM GRANT AND LOAN EACH YEAR, WITH REGARD TO THE MOVEMENT OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A).

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SIR EDWARD OFF TO PEKING
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR TO PEKING WERE THE ACTING POLITICAL ADVISER, MR RICHARD MARGOLIS, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INTERPRETER, MR Y.P. CHENG.

SIR PHILIP HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR DURING SIR EDWARD'S ABSENCE.

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NO APPLICATION RECEIVED FOR FREE BUS SERVICE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NO APPLICATION FOR A FREE BUS SERVICE TO BE OPERATED BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AND THE SHOPPING CENTRE AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT, ON BECOMING AWARE OF PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE A SERVICE, HAD APPROACHED THE COMPANY CONCERNED. ON CONFIRMATION THAT THE COMPANY HAD CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE, THE DEPARTMENT DREW THE COMPANY'S ATTENTION TO THE LICENSING CONDITIONS. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, WHICH WERE ACCEPTED BY THE COMPANY IN MAY LAST YEAR, THE COMPANY'S BUSES MUST EXCLUSIVELY BE USED FOR THE CARRIAGE OF COMPANY EMPLOYEES. THE COMPANY WOULD BE BREACHING ITS PRESENT LICENSING CONDITIONS IF IT USED ITS BUSES FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN ACTION OR THREATENED ACTION AGAINST THE COMPANY WERE UNFOUNDED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, OR VARIATIONS IN THE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 7G (6) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR THE SERVICE PROPOSED, HAVING REGARD TO THE AVAILABILITY OF OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT ON THE ROUTES PROPOSED AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND ROAD CAPACITY.

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EXPORT CREDIT RISKS TO BE EXPLAINED

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A SEMINAR ON EXPORT CREDIT RISKS AND BUSINESS PROMOTION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON FOR INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (ECIC) THE SEMINAR WILL HIGHLIGHT THE VARIOUS CREDIT RISKS ENCOUNTERED BY EXPORTERS IF THEY TRADE ON CREDIT TERMS, AND HOW THESE RISKS CAN BE REDUCED.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER OF ECIC, MR CHOI SHIU-YING, AND THE CORPORATION'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MR PETER MOK.

THEY WILL TALK ON HOW A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE SCHEME CAN ASSIST HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THEIR EXPORT BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY AT THIS CURRENTLY UNCERTAIN AND DIFFICULT TIME IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

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THE ADVANTAGE OF EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM AT THE WONG CHUK HANG CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE, ABERDEEN.

+COMPETITION IS SO KEEN THESE DAYS THAT THE EXPORTERS HAVE TO GRANT CREDIT TO OVERSEAS IN ORDER TO SECURE THE BUSINESS, BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THE RISKS OF NON-PAYMENT ARISING FROM THE BUYER AND FROM THE BUYER'S COUNTRY,+ THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR K.C. KWONG, SAID.

+I AM SURE THIS SEMINAR WILL PROVE TO BE OF BENEFIT TO MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS WHO INTEND TO GIVE OR ARE ALREADY GIVING CREDIT TO THEIR OVERSEAS BUYERS,+ HE SAID.

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MORE FOOD STALLS FOR KWAI CHUNG WORKERS * * * *

TEN MORE STALLS ARE BEING ADDED TO THE KA TING COOKED FOOD CENTRE AT KWAI CHUNG TO PROVIDE FACTORY WORKERS WITH AN ADDITIONAL HYGIENIC EATING PLACE.

BUILT AT A COST OF \$500 000, THE COOKED FOOD CENTRE IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF KA TING ROAD AND TAI LIN PAI ROAD, AND IS ONE OF THE TWO PROPER EATING PLACES AT THE HEART OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREA, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE OTHER COOKED FOOD CENTRE MANAGED BY THE NTSD IS AT TAI LIN PAI ROAD, AND HAS 22 STALLS.

KA TING COOKED FOOD CENTRE NOW HAS 17 STALLS CATERING TO THE NEEDS OF THOUSANDS OF FACTORY WORKERS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE LUNCH HOUR.

EACH STALL OF THE NEW EXTENSION OF KA TING COOKED FOOD CENTRE IS EQUIPPED WITH ITS OWN WORKING AREA, WITH A WATER TAP, SINK AND A BASIN. AND ALL PARTITION WALLS AND FLOOR SURFACES ARE PAVED WITH GLAZED AND MOSAIC TILES.

MEANWHILE, TWO MORE MODERN COOKED FOOD CENTRES ARE NOW BEING BUILT AT KWAI CHUNG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE WILL BE 18 COOKED FOOD STALLS AND TWO FRUIT STALLS AT TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD CENTRE, AND 14 MORE COOKED FOOD STALLS AND FOUR FRUIT STALLS AT A PAVILION STYLE WO YI HOP ROAD COOKED FOOD CENTRE, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND BEING BUILT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A COMMUNAL MECHANICAL EXHAUST SYSTEM, WITH GREASE FILTERS TO INDIVIDUAL HOODS FOR DRAWING COOKING FUMES, AT THE TWO COOKED FOOD CENTRES.

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SUMMER TECHNICAL COURSES PROVE POPULAR
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SHORT SUMMER COURSES OFFERED BY THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE RECEIVED GOOD RESPONSE.

A TOTAL OF 131 COURSES WERE ORGANISED FOR 5 600 STUDENTS OUT OF 31 300 APPLICANTS, A VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SPOKESMAN REVEALED.

+THE RESPONSE TO THE SHORT SUMMER COURSES HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING, THOUGH IT IS REGRETTED THAT THE COURSES COULD ONLY MEET A PROPORTION OF THE APPLICANTS,+ HE SAID.

MOST OF THESE COURSES STARTED EARLIER THIS MONTH WHILE THE REST WILL START IN AUGUST.

SUBJECTS ON COMMERCIAL STUDIES AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ARE THE MOST POPULAR, ATTRACTING NEARLY 10 000 AND 9 400 APPLICATIONS RESPECTIVELY. COURSES ON OTHER DISCIPLINES ALSO ENJOY AN OVERWHELMING DEMAND.

THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES HAVE BEEN OFFERING A RANGE OF SHORT COURSES DURING NORMAL TERM TIMES. THE PRIMARY OBJECT IS TO ENABLE PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT TO UPDATE THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL FELT THAT SHORT COURSES COULD PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT SERVICE TO INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY AND WAS OFFERING MORE OF THEM DURING SUMMER, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A SMALL NUMBER OF HOBBY AND LEISURE-INTEREST COURSES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED WHICH ARE ALSO WELL SUBSCRIBED.

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TAPS OFF BRIEFLY IN TWO AREAS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME AREAS IN KWAI CHUNG AND LAM TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS BETWEEN THURSDAY (AUGUST 4) AND FRIDAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN KWAI CHUNG, SUPPLY TO AN AREA BOUNDED BY HING SHING ROAD, KWAI SHING CIRCUIT AND KWAI LUEN ROAD, INCLUDING BLOCKS 12-14 KWAI SHING EAST ESTATE AND BLOCKS 6-10 KWAI SHING WEST ESTATE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 12.01 AM TO 6 AM ON THURSDAY.

IN LAM TIN, SUPPLY WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY JUNK BAY ROAD, KAI TIN ROAD, PING TIN STREET, ON TIN STREET AND TAK TIN STREET, INCLUDING BLOCK NO. 1 TO 14 LAM TIN ESTATE AND LAM TIN SAN TSUEN.

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WATER FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 88.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 510.240 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 380.533 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 65.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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