



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1978

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GOVERNOR OPENS SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, EMPHASISED TODAY THAT IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS WAS THE ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF NEW TOWNS AND BOTH OLD AND NEW COMMUNITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL, SIR MURRAY DESCRIBED IT AS +THE MOST SPECTACULAR AND SYMBOLIC+ PART OF A NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THAT BY 1983 WILL SERVE 600,000 RESIDENTS.

+OUR NORTH-EAST IS AN AREA OF GREAT BEAUTY AND GREAT POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FOR RECREATION= THIS IS ITS GATEWAY, AND THROUGH IT INCREASED WEALTH AND OPPORTUNITY WILL FLOW,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+IT MUST BE OUR TASK TO ENSURE THAT THESE BENEFIT ORIGINAL INHABITANTS AND NEW RESIDENTS ALIKE, AND THAT THEY ENABLE NEW COMMUNITIES TO GROW AND PROSPER IN NEW AND ATTRACTIVE CONDITIONS UNTHOUGHT OF IN THE 50'S AND 60'S WHEN CONGESTED URBAN AREAS WERE BUILT UP,+ HE ADDED.

THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COASTAL EXTENSION OF THE HIGHWAY FROM SHA TIN TO TAI PO THAT WILL START THIS YEAR AND THE PROGRESSIVE DOUBLE TRACKING OF THE RAILWAY.

SIR MURRAY THANKED THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THEIR ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS AND WORKMEN FOR THEIR EXPERTISE AND ENERGY IN BUILDING THE TUNNEL AND ITS ACCOMPANYING WORKS WHICH OPENED UP FOR ALL OF US +THESE NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES+.

EARLIER, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID IN HIS SPEECH WELCOMING THE GOVERNOR THAT THE NEW TUNNEL +REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STAGE IN THE PLAN FOR A MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY LINKING KOWLOON WITH SHA TIN AND THE REST OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

HE SAID THAT THE TUNNEL, WHICH IS SOME 1,400 METRES-LONG AND ACCOMMODATES GAS AND WATER PIPES AS WELL AS A TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY, WAS CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF \$68 MILLION AND TOOK OVER FOUR YEARS TO COMPLETE.

AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE NEW TUNNEL WAS HANDED OVER TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND OPENED TO THE PUBLIC, WHILE THE FIRST TUNNEL WOULD BE CLOSED TO ALLOW ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT LATER THIS YEAR, BOTH TUNNELS WOULD BE IN SERVICE AND THEY WOULD PROVIDE A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE ROAD COMMUNICATIONS.

AFTER UNVEILING THE PLAQUE, THE GOVERNOR WENT ON A TOUR OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ACCOMPANIED BY MR. IAN MACPHERSON, COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT= MR. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF P.W.D.= MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT OF P.W.D. AND MR. STAN BARDEN, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER.

SITE FOR ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO DEVELOP AN AREA NORTH OF SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO PROVIDE SITES FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING A RECREATION GROUND AND A DISTRICT OPEN SPACE.

THE SITE FORMATION IS PART OF AN \$80 MILLION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, WHICH INCLUDES ROADWORKS AND DRAINAGE, FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEW TOWN CENTRE AREA. IT IS NEAR ANOTHER SITE TO BE FORMED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THREE MONTHS TIME BY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CONTRACTORS AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID TODAY THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AMENITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE FAST-GROWING POPULATION IN SHA TIN.

+IT HAS BEEN PLANNED AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WILL SEE THE NEW TOWN TRANSFORMED INTO A BALANCED, SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE BY MID-1980'S,+ HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE SITE FORMATION WORK, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESUME ABOUT 27,260 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE SHING MUN RIVER.

A THREE MONTHS' NOTICE OF THE LAND RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST WEEK.

AS THE LAND TO BE RESUMED LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF THE NEW TOWN, THE OWNERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND WILL BE OFFERED THE ALTERNATIVE OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR CASH COMPENSATION.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, FRUIT TREES, BAMBOOS, IRRIGATION PIPES AND FENCES,+ HE SAID.

+CULTIVATORS WILL BE GIVEN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES WHILE DISPLACED PIG-BREEDERS AND POULTRY FARMERS WILL RECEIVE EX-GRATIA DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE, TOGETHER WITH +TUN FU+ CEREMONIAL FEES.+

HE SAID NO BUILDING LAND WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE RESUMPTION, BUT 156 DOMESTIC TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, MOSTLY ON PRIVATE LAND, WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED.

+ELIGIBLE FAMILIES WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN WHILE THOSE FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE WILL BE OFFERED SPACE IN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN THE DISTRICT.

+GENUINE CULTIVATOR-FAMILIES, WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BUT OPT FOR A RESITE OUTSIDE THE LAYOUT TO CONTINUE FARMING WILL BE OFFERED AN EX-GRATIA REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE OF \$5,000 PER FAMILY BUT WILL FORFEIT THEIR PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

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DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT HOSPITAL
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, WILL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) VISIT THE SANDY BAY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL MANAGED BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

MR. WALDEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT BY MR. WILSON CHEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS= THE DIRECTORS OF THE GROUP AND MR. WILLIAM YAP, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (SOUTHERN).

THE SANDY BAY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL HAS A TOTAL OF 503 BEDS MAINLY FOR PATIENTS TRANSFERRED FROM QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

IT HAS A NUMBER OF UNITS, INCLUDING MEDICAL, SURGERY, PAEDIATRIC, GYNAECOLOGY, ORTHOPAEDIC, RADIOTHERAPY AND THORACIC.

THE RUNNING COST OF THE HOSPITAL IS MAINLY FINANCED BY GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS' VISIT. THE DIRECTOR WILL ARRIVE AT THE SANDY BAY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, SANDY BAY ROAD AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS PASSING OUT PARADE
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 20) AT 9.30 A.M. AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND, SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY.

UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR. LEUNG TAT-SHING, WILL INSPECT THE PARADE AND ADDRESS THE GRADUATES.

MORE THAN 40 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT.

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BOOKLET ON PLOVER COVE

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A FULL-COLOUR BOOKLET ON PLOVER COVE, HONG KONG'S FIRST RESERVOIR FROM THE SEA, IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE 16-PAGE BOOKLET, AT \$4 EACH, IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF THREE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S BOOKLETS ON WATER PROJECTS.

THE OTHER TWO ARE ON LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT AND HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, RECALLED THAT THE IDEA OF CONVERTING SEA INLETS INTO FRESH-WATER RESERVOIRS BY DAMMING THE INLET CAME FROM HIS PREDECESSOR, THE LATE MR. T.O. MORGAN, WHEN HE WAS SWIMMING IN TOLO HARBOUR SOME 20 YEARS AGO.

HE SAID THAT THE BOOKLET -- WHICH IS VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED BY COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND DIAGRAMS -- GAVE THE HISTORY OF PLOVER COVE, DETAILS OF DIFFERENT STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION AND PROBLEMS WHICH HAD TO BE OVERCOME IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

THE BOOKLET IS THE FIRST PUBLISHED BY THE P.W.D. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT.

TWO OTHER COLOUR BOOKLETS ON PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR WERE PRODUCED DURING ITS VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI KOK TSUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 20), THE SECTION OF TUNG CHAU STREET BETWEEN ITS TWO JUNCTIONS WITH WILLOW STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY NORTHWEST BOUND TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

ALONG WITH THIS TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING, MAPLE STREET BETWEEN TUNG CHAU STREET AND BEDFORD ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHWEST BOUND AND BEDFORD ROAD BETWEEN WALNUT STREET AND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHWEST BOUND.

NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC IN TUNG CHAU STREET TRAVELLING TO TAI KOK TSUI ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA MAPLE STREET AND BEDFORD ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THESE AREAS TO ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUPPLEMENT

H E'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF SECOND LION
ROCK TUNNEL ON 18 JANUARY, 1978

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It is a great pleasure to me to have been asked to open this tunnel.

The growth and prosperity of new towns and both old and new communities in the New Territories depend on many things, but the essential condition is improved communications. Hence the importance of this new four lane highway from Kowloon to Shatin that will open shortly, and the construction of a coastal extension of the highway from Shatin to Tai Po that will start this year. Hence also the importance of the progressive double tracking of the railway.

This tunnel is only part of this new communications system that by 1983 will serve 600,000 residents, but it is the most spectacular part and it is symbolic. Our north-east is an area of great beauty and great potential for development and for recreation; this is its gateway, and through it increased wealth and opportunity will flow. It must be our task to ensure that these benefit original inhabitants and new residents alike, and that they enable new communities to grow and prosper in new and attractive conditions unthought of in the 50s when the congested urban areas were built up.

We are all grateful for the expertise and energy of the Public Works Department and their engineers, contractors and workmen who have built this tunnel and its accompanying works, and thus opened up for all of us these new and exciting opportunities.

It is with the greatest pleasure therefore that I declare this second Lion Rock Tunnel open.