



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, September 10, 1973

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FASTER POSTAL SERVICE FOR BUSINESS FIRMS

The postal service in Hong Kong entered a new era today with the formal introduction of 'Speedpost' -- a fast door-to-door collection and delivery service serving large firms and organisations on an international basis.

The first firm to use 'Speedpost' is the Chartered Bank whose first dispatch left Hong Kong for London at 5.30 p.m. today. It is expected to reach the bank's London office by tomorrow afternoon.

The contract for the new service was signed today at the Chartered Bank building by the acting Postmaster General, Mr. D.J.K. Bamford, on behalf of the Post Office, and by Mr. D.L. Millar, Chief Manager of the Chartered Bank.

The Bank has a contract for five collections a week, excluding Fridays and Sundays.

For the time being, the service will only operate between Hong Kong and Britain, but plans are in hand to expand it to the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Singapore, a spokesman for the Post Office said.

Charges will be open to negotiation with individual customers, he said, but the basic scale to the United Kingdom would be \$100 for the first pound and \$15 for every pound thereafter.

No maximum weight limit will be set for each consignment, but individual packages should not exceed 10 pounds to ensure easy transportation and speedy delivery.

/So far,

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So far, some 30 firms -- representing a wide range of business concerns -- have expressed an interest in the new service. Another 25 have asked for more details.

The main features of the new system, according to the spokesman, are its speed and reliability. Each consignment, he said, was expected to reach its destination within 24 hours.

Speedpost, he added, was designed to meet the needs of the modern age where there is a requirement for information and data to be conveyed regularly and urgently.

Those who will benefit from the advantages of the new service will include banks, insurance companies, department stores, shipping lines, importers and exporters.

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WESTERN APPROACHES TO AIRPORT TUNNEL

A 3,600-foot-long elevated road, with an interchange on each end, is to be built along Chatham Road and Kowloon City Road to link the Cross-Harbour Tunnel connections at Hung Hom with the western portal of the airport tunnel, now under construction.

Work on the project will be divided into three sections.

The first section involves the widening of Chatham Road and the construction of an interchange in the vicinity of the Fat Kwong Street Bridge and Wuhu Street, in Hung Hom.

It will provide connections with Fat Kwong Street and through Wuhu Street to Hung Hom.

Pedestrian movements in the Chatham Road area will be improved by a pedestrian overpass at Chatham Road and Wuhu Street and a pedestrian subway behind the east abutment of Fat Kwong Street Bridge.

Section Two of the project consists mainly of the construction of an elevated roadway along Chatham Road north of Fat Kwong Street and Kowloon City Road to San Shan Road where a second interchange -- the San Shan Interchange -- will be built.

The third section includes the construction of a depressed section of road starting immediately north of San Shan Road and leading to the western portal of the airport tunnel.

The depressed roadway will be a maximum of 32 feet below the road surface.

/It will

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It will be partially roofed at the sides to provide ground level roads in Kowloon City Road for frontage access and connection with Sung Wong Toi Road.

The remaining central strip will be left open, except at cross streets, for ventilation.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said the "highest priority" was being given to section three of the project because the airport tunnel could not operate until this section of road was completed.

This section will allow traffic to use the tunnel with access through the San Shan Interchange.

Equally high priority was being given to the Wuhu Interchange, the spokesman said.

To minimise disruption to traffic the Wuhu Interchange should be completed before the construction of the elevated road.

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"USEFUL" TRADE TALKS IN HONG KONG

Sir Christopher Soames, Commissioner of the European Economic Community, had "useful talks" with government officials and members of the Executive and Legislative Councils before flying to Tokyo today (Monday) for the GATT Ministerial meeting.

Sir Christopher told a press conference before leaving after a three-day stay: "Hong Kong is an important trading entity, and also an important beneficiary under the Community's generalised preference scheme.

"In view of the Community's responsibility in the trade policy field it was useful therefore to have some understanding on Hong Kong's views on a number of matters."

Asked why Hong Kong textiles and footwear were excluded from the generalised preference scheme, Sir Christopher said this had been part of the agreement when Britain joined the EEC.

When it was pointed out that South Korea enjoyed preference for its textiles and footwear, he replied that "a lot of Hong Kong textiles already go into the U.K." and also Hong Kong was number two of the many countries benefitting from the scheme.

He said the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) ministerial meeting in Tokyo was to set the guidelines for further liberalisation of trade among industrialised and developing countries.

The Tokyo talks, starting on Wednesday, will be just a preliminary, and the actual negotiations could last at least three years.

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Note to Editors: A picture of Sir Christopher addressing the press conference at Kaitak will be boxed this evening.
(This item is not included in the Chinese D.I.B.)

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SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED

There was a slight improvement in the number of disabled people who were employed during the month of August, when eight more were given jobs than in the previous month.

Mr. Chan Shiu-wing, officer-in-charge of the Social Welfare Department's Job Placement Unit, said this was encouraging and he hoped the position would be even better in September.

For the month under review, the Unit placed 24 disabled people in jobs in open industry, firms and within government.

They comprised two mentally retarded, three cured TB patients, three blind, five formerly mentally ill patients and 11 cripples.

One was given a job as a quality controller, one as a watchman, one as a machine-sewing worker, one as a sales representative, one as a TV repair man, one as a clerk, one as a thread-cutter, one as an office attendant, one as an inspection worker, two as messengers, two as packers, two as telephone operators, two as deliverymen, two as assemblers and five as cleansing workers.

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CHURCH SERVICE TO OPEN NEW LEGAL YEAR

A church service to mark the opening of the new legal year will be held at St. John's Cathedral on Thursday (September 13) at 9.30 a.m.

The sermon will be preached by the Rev. R.A. Howe, Dean-designate of the Cathedral.

The Chief Justice will head the congregation of Judges, Queen's Counsels, Magistrates, members of the Bar and of the Law Society, who will be present at the service.

The courts will resume sitting at 11.30 a.m. on that day.

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ROAD CLOSURE

A section of May Road in front of Thorpe Manor has been closed for two months to facilitate repair works.

The temporary closure was made under the Streets (Alteration) Ordinance and applies from September 2. The closed section is about 500 feet in length.

Appropriate traffic signs have been set up to guide motorists.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE IN N.T.

A temporary registration station will be set up at Takuling in the New Territories later this week for the convenience of residents there.

The station will be operating for two days starting on Thursday (September 13) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to enable parents or guardians to register their children between six and 17 years for juvenile identity cards.

Those over 17 years of age and holding juvenile identity cards will be able to register for adult identity cards. An opportunity will also be afforded for residents to report changes in their registered particulars.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.