



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1981

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GAS CONSULTANTS START WORK

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THE CONSULTANTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL GAS INDUSTRY STARTED WORK THIS WEEK.

THE TEAM IS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE OF THE BRITISH GAS CORPORATION.

THE FIRST TWO MEMBERS TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ARE MR D.J. BUTLER, A SENIOR ENGINEERING MANAGER, AND MR G.F. WHITBREAD, A TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER, OF THE CORPORATION.

THEY WILL BE JOINED LATER BY MR R. WATTS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES OF THE BRITISH GAS CORPORATION.

THE CONSULTANTS WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF TOWN GAS AND LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS.

THEY WILL VISIT GAS MANUFACTURING AND STORAGE FACILITIES AND WILL SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE SITUATION RELATING TO GAS INSTALLATIONS AND APPLIANCES.

INTERESTED PARTIES, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES, WHO HAVE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TOWARDS THE STUDY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE CONSULTANTS BY TELEPHONING 5-7908990 OR 5-7908743.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSULTANCY ARE:

- * TO REVIEW THE EXISTING SITUATION ON THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS OF TOWN GAS AND LPG-
- * TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING LEGISLATION IN AREAS ALREADY SUBJECT TO CONTROL-
- * TO ASSESS THE DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL TO AREAS NOT CURRENTLY, OR ADEQUATELY, COVERED, HAVING REGARD TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS AND PRACTICES-
- * TO ADVISE HOW PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC IS TO BE SAFEGUARDED BY THE NEW OR AMENDING LEGISLATION-
- * TO ASSESS THE LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCING NEW CONTROLS-
- * TO ADVISE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW OR AMENDING LEGISLATION WITH REGARD TO THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED-
- * TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE BEST METHODS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OF ENFORCING LEGISLATION TO BE ENACTED- AND

/X AS NECESSARY

- * AS NECESSARY, TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OF A CONSULTANT TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN JUNE AND THE FULL STUDY WILL TAKE ABOUT 20 WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

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SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLY OF FACTORY SPACE AVAILABLE

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DESPITE REFERENCES TO THE SHORTAGE OF LAND AFFECTING THE PACE AND PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, PARADOXICALLY THE SUPPLY OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE IS SUBSTANTIAL AND GROWING, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR BILL DORWARD TODAY (APRIL 28).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1981 NEW PRODUCTS COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, MR DORWARD CONCURRED WITH A SUGGESTION THAT ONE REASON WHY RENTS AND SALE PRICES OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE HAD HELD UP DESPITE THE SHARP GROWTH AND THE AMOUNT OF VACANT SPACE --- NEARLY FIVE PER CENT AT THE END OF 1980 --- WAS THAT THERE WAS A MISMATCH.

+THAT IS TO SAY, THE SPACE IS EITHER IN THE WRONG PLACE OR IS OF THE WRONG TYPE TO MEET DEMAND.

+THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY SOMETHING IN THIS,+ SAID MR DORWARD. +THE HIGHEST VACANCY RATE IS IN TUEN MUN= THE LOWEST IN KOWLOON. RENTS ARE, NOT SURPRISINGLY THEREFORE, ABOUT TWICE AS HIGH IN KOWLOON AS IN TUEN MUN.

+LIKEWISE GROUND FLOOR SPACE COMMANDS ROUGHLY DOUBLE THE RENTS OF HIGHER FLOORS, BECAUSE OF EASY ACCESS AND HIGHER FLOOR LOADING CAPACITY AND DEMAND IS STRONG FOR SMALL UNITS OF UP TO 100 SQUARE METRES,+ HE SAID.

MR DORWARD ADDED THAT THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY EASED BY SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS.

+THE FORECAST FOR 1982 IS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 1.7 MILLION SQUARE METRES. THAT IS THE HIGHEST ANNUAL FIGURE EVER PROJECTED, AND IS ONLY A LITTLE LESS THAN THE TOTAL SPACE PRODUCED IN THE FIVE YEARS FROM 1972 TO 1976,+ HE SAID.

THE SHIFT OF POPULATION TO THE NEW TOWNS, WHICH WAS ACCELERATING, WOULD MAKE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THERE A GOOD DEAL MORE ATTRACTIVE. IN TUEN MUN, AT THE END OF 1979, 40 PER CENT OF THE AVAILABLE FACTORY SPACE WAS VACANT AND A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN STOCK TOOK PLACE IN 1980 AND IS SCHEDULED FOR 1981.

+ABOUT 10 000 NEW HOUSING UNITS WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR AND OVER 5 000 ARE DUE TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR,+ SAID MR DORWARD. +INSOFAR AS LABOUR SHORTAGE HAS BEEN A DETERRENT IN THAT AREA, THEREFORE, THE SITUATION IS OBVIOUSLY IMPROVING SIGNIFICANTLY- AT THE END OF 1980 VACANT FACTORY SPACE HAD DROPPED TO 7.6 PER CENT.

COMMUNICATIONS SUCH AS THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS, THE COMPLETION OF THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY, THE MTR EXTENSION, THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KCR AND THE COASTAL ROAD TO TAI PO WERE ALL WORKING TOWARD A GRADUAL UNCLOGGING OF THE TRANSPORT ARTERIES OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, AND SHOULD ALSO IMPROVE THE ATTRACTIONS FOR INDUSTRY TO LOCATE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

RETURNING TO THE MISMATCH IN THE TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION, MR DORWARD SAID THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HAD ALREADY PROVIDED SITES FOR ABOUT 29 TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED FACTORIES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE FOUND IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LOCATE IN HONG KONG- AND SPACE WAS AVAILABLE FOR AS MANY AGAIN. THE YUEN LONG ESTATE WAS TAKING SHAPE, AND A LEASE ON THE FIRST SITE THERE WAS EXPECTED TO BE GRANTED VERY SHORTLY.

THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION IS ALSO IN PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING AT TAI PO A NUMBER OF STANDARD FACTORIES WITH HIGH CEILING CLEARANCES, HEAVY FLOOR LOADINGS AND GOOD ACCESS AND LOADING FACILITIES. THESE ARE FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH MEET THE CRITERIA FOR BEING GRANTED SITES ON THE ESTATE, BUT WHICH DO NOT NEED A PURPOSE-BUILT FACTORY AND WANT TO GET QUICKLY INTO PRODUCTION. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON AND THE FIRST FACTORY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY OCTOBER, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE INDUSTRIAL LAND SALES PROGRAMME IN 1979 AND AGAIN LAST YEAR WAS TAILORED TO ENSURE THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SMALL UNITS OF UP TO 75 SQUARE METRES, AND OF UPPER FLOOR SPACE WITH HIGH CEILING CLEARANCE AND HEAVY FLOOR LOADING CAPACITY TO MEET THE DEMAND APPARENT FOR BOTH AS REFLECTED IN RELATIVE CURRENT COSTS.

+DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1981, 22 SITES TOTALLING ROUGHLY 68 000 SQUARE METRES WERE DISPOSED OF WITH SPECIAL LEASE CONDITIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT A FURTHER 28 000 SQUARE METRES IN 10 SITES WILL BE DEALT WITH SIMILARLY BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 1981.

+TAKEN TOGETHER, THIS PACKAGE OF MEASURES WILL, I TRUST, HAVE A STABILISING EFFECT ON RENTAL AND SALE PRICES FOR FACTORY PREMISES. THERE ARE, I KNOW, INDICATIONS THAT SOME SPACE IS VACANT AND REMAINING SO BECAUSE RENTS OR SALE PRICES ARE BEING PITCHED ABOVE THE MARKET LEVEL. THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH AN ATTITUDE BY CERTAIN DEVELOPERS CAN BE SUSTAINED IN THE FACE OF THE CHANGING SITUATION I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED IS HARD TO PREDICT- BUT IT MUST BE LIMITED,+ HE SAID.

CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION FOR ITS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN STIMULATING INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION BY ORGANISING THE NEW PRODUCTS COMPETITION, MR DORWARD ANNOUNCED THAT THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S DIRECTOR OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS' AWARD WAS QUALIDUX INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD. FOR ITS PLASTIC FOLDING CHAIR.

+THIS IS A PRODUCT WHICH COMBINES PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WITH IMAGINATIVE AND FUNCTIONAL DESIGN,+ HE CONCLUDED.

GOVERNMENT TO BE ASKED ABOUT ANTI-ROBBERY MEASURES AT LEGCO

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AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG +WHETHER ANY SPECIAL MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO COMBAT THE RECENT DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ARMED ROBBERIES INVOLVING FIREARMS+.

MR CHEONG'S QUESTION WILL BE AMONG A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON VARIOUS MATTERS AFFECTING LIFE IN HONG KONG, RANGING FROM RECREATION AND EDUCATION TO CAR TRAVEL ACROSS THE HARBOUR AND NIGHT WORK ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION.

DR THE HON HARRY FANG WILL ASK THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT TO ASK THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY TO CONSIDER CHARGING CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL FEES IN ONE DIRECTION ONLY, IN ORDER TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

ANOTHER QUESTION, FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, WILL DEAL WITH A REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNMENT, +IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE NUISANCE CAUSED TO THE PUBLIC,+ TO CONSIDER LIFTING, +AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICABLE TO DO SO, THE EXEMPTION GRANTED TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WHICH ALLOWS THE CORPORATION TO CARRY OUT CONSTRUCTION WORKS 24 HOURS A DAY, INCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.+

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WILL ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE SINCE IT ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLACING DISABLED PERSONS IN EMPLOYMENT FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN JULY 1980.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL REPLY TO THE QUESTION.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WILL REPLY TO TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM THE HON WONG LAM, WHETHER, +IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL SHORTAGE OF VENUES FOR PUBLIC CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES+, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD +CONSIDER MAKING AVAILABLE, WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, THE FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES.+

THE HON JOYCE BENNETT WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY OF BUILDING PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN EACH HOUSING ESTATE WHEN THE NEW ESTATE IS SO CLOSE TO OTHER HOUSING ESTATES WHERE THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE NOT FULL AND LESS THAN ONE MILE FROM THE NEW PROPOSED SCHOOLS.

THE QUESTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF MOTIONS AND READINGS OF VARIOUS STAGES OF BILLS, INCLUDING THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF APPROPRIATION BILL 1981.

TWO BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL. THEY ARE THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981 AND BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981.

DEBATE ON THREE BILLS WILL ALSO BE RESUMED. THEY ARE THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981, AND THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981.

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SATURDAY NIGHT RECREATION IN KWAI CHUNG
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AN EXPERIMENTAL RECREATION SCHEME IS TO BE LAUNCHED IN KWAI CHUNG ESTATE ON SATURDAY EVENINGS STARTING EARLY NEXT MONTH.

KNOWN AS THE +KWAI CHUNG ESTATE SATURDAY NIGHT RECREATION SCHEME,+ IT WILL BE HELD FROM 6.30 PM TO 9 PM ON 10 EVENINGS UNTIL EARLY JULY.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON, TABLE TENNIS, TRAMPOLINING AND ROLLER SKATING WILL BE AVAILABLE INSIDE THE PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO BLOCKS 3 TO 5 OF THE ESTATE.

A MOBILE CENTRE, MANNED BY STAFF OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, WILL BE PRESENT. STAFF WILL HELP ORGANISE AND ARRANGE SPORTING DEMONSTRATIONS, COMPETITIONS, TRAINING CLASSES AND EXHIBITIONS.

+THE SCHEME IS BEING INTRODUCED BECAUSE SOME RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE ESTATE ARE UNDER-UTILISED, ESPECIALLY AFTER DARK,+ KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, SAID.

HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE DUE TO LACK OF PROPER LIGHTING IN SOME OF THESE FACILITIES OR BECAUSE PARENTS OBJECTED TO THEIR CHILDREN PLAYING OUTSIDE AFTER DARK FOR FEAR THEY MIGHT BE INFLUENCED BY BAD ELEMENTS.

PROPER LIGHTING IS BEING INSTALLED IN THE PLAYGROUND AND STAFF OF THE ESTATE'S POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD UNIT WILL PATROL THE AREA FREQUENTLY.

+CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE ESTATE CAN GO THERE INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS AND JOIN THE SCHEME ON THE SPOT. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ADVANCE BOOKING AND ALL EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE,+ HE SAID.

THE SCHEME WOULD BE EVALUATED AFTER THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD, AND WOULD BE EXTENDED TO OTHER ESTATES IN THE AREA IF FOUND TO BE POPULAR, MR TING SAID.

THE SCHEME IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, KWAI CHUNG POLICE DIVISION AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

IT IS FINANCED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1981

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NEW ARCH OPENED FOR OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, TODAY (TUESDAY) OPENED A NEW ARCH FOR THE CHUNG SHEK HEI HOME FOR THE AGED ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR ALLEYNE SAID WHILE THE BASIC REQUIREMENT OF AN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME IS TO GIVE PHYSICAL COMFORT, IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO HARMONIOUS INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

HE PRAISED THE BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE HOME FOR THEIR REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN PROVIDING IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY.

BESIDES EXTENDING BASIC CARE TO OLD PEOPLE IN NEED, HE SAID, THE HOME ENABLES THEM TO LEAD A SATISFYING AND USEFUL LIFE.

IT ORGANISES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HELP THE RESIDENTS COMBAT BOREDOM, REGULATIONS AND ROUTINES.

AND THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTEER WORK, THE OLD PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE STILL CONTRIBUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

THE CHUNG SHEK HEI HOME FOR THE AGED WAS SET UP IN 1969 WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND. IT CARES FOR 138 MALE AND FEMALE ELDERLY PEOPLE.

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SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS TO ATTEND ADB MEETING

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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR D.W.A. BLYE, LEAVES HONG KONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO ATTEND THE 14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII FROM APRIL 30 TO MAY 2. MR BLYE IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE MEETING AT A GOVERNORS' SESSION.

ALSO IN THE HONG KONG DELEGATION ARE MR COLIN MARTIN, COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR JOSEPH YAM, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ECONOMIC SERVICES) AND MR ANDREW WELLS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MONETARY AFFAIRS).

MR BLYE IS DUE BACK IN HONG KONG ON MAY 4. DURING HIS ABSENCE, MR PETER ALLSOPP WILL ACT AS SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS.

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PWD AWARDS 64 CONTRACTS

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AWARDED A TOTAL OF 64 CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$320 MILLION IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

OF THESE CONTRACTS, 33 WERE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AND THE REMAINING 31 ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PWD TENDER BOARD.

THE BIGGEST CONTRACTS WERE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE AT WO HOP SHEK ON THE TAI PO ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN YUEN LONG NEW TOWN AND AU TAU.

BOTH PROJECTS, COSTING A TOTAL OF MORE THAN \$100 MILLION, WILL FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1984.

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