HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, May 21, 1973

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Monday, May 21, 1973

COMPUTERISATION OF DRIVING LICENCES AND

DRIVING OFFENCE RECORDS

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Plans are in hand to use computers in processing driving licences and driving offence records to eliminate excessive paper work and time delays for maximum efficiency.

A preliminary study on the proposed scheme has already been completed by the Data Processing Division, the Police Traffic Branch and the Transport Department and is now under active consideration.

Basically, the scheme will involve feeding punched cards, containing relevant vehicle and driver information, into the computer to form a comprehensive file.

One of the many advantages would be that information about vehicles and their drivers would be made available within seconds to police, magistrates and Transport Department officials thereby improving operational efficiency.

The computer would maintain the registers and be responsible for all decisions concerning such matters as renewals and transfers and would print the appropriate documents.

Rough estimates provided by the Data Processing Division show that the computer system could result in savings of millions of dollars annually over the present manual system.

Current estimates of the initial cost of establishing the system come to about $1.5 million, with an additional $950,000 required later on to convert the system to an "on-line" operation.

/Basically, ...

Basically, this means that it will then be possible to obtain information instantly, without the use of punch cards, by means of a keyboard system thus saving time and labour.

At the same time, it is also intended to computerise various activities of the Public Works Department to ease the heavy workload in these sections.

Consultants will be engaged to make a comprehensive study of the department's operational needs to determine specific fields which could benefit from computerisation. The consultants will supplement the government's data processing division.

It is envisaged that the first three priority applications would be waterworks billing and associated statistical work, structural design calculations, and land surveying calculations.

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KEY ROLE FOR KOWLOON BAY DEPOT IN MASS TRANSIT SCHEME

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Extensive site preparation at Kowloon Bay is required before work can begin on constructing the main depot of the mass transit railway, which will serve thousands of daily commuters on both sides of the harbour.

This must be completed within six months from now if work on the depot is to start on schedule at the beginning of next year.

Facilities at the depot will include train sidings, an administration centre, workshops and maintenance facilities.

The Director of Mass Transit Studies, Mr. A.H. Wilkins, said that the 28-acre site at Kowloon Bay will become the nerve centre for the entire mass transit system.

A traffic control centre will be accommodated in the administration building, and the depot will provide centralised facilities to meet repair, storage and maintenance requirements.

"It is essential to begin work early so that a major depot can be laid out where trains can be assembled, tested and maintained, and where training facilities can be provided for railway staff," Mr. Wilkins said.

"Training of staff will have to begin almost immediately after January 1 next year."

The Kowloon Bay depot will be linked with the initial phase of the mass transit network.

Track will be laid first from the depot to the link with the Kowloon-Canton railway near Kowloon Tong as it is anticipated that rolling stock will be delivered from ships to the depot via this route.

/This first .....

This first section of the line will enable operating experience to be gained before it is opened to public use.

Site preparation at Kowloon Bay will involve reclamation work, construction of culverts and raising the land level by several feet.

Vacation of the site by its present occupiers is due by mid-June so that preparatory formation work can begin on schedule.

Mr. Wilkins said that the mass transit planners had faced great difficulties in deciding where the main depot should be situated due to the scarcity of suitably shaped areas of level ground.

"If it had been at all possible an unoccupied site would have been chosen," he said.

"However, extensive surveys made it clear that Kowloon Bay was the only suitable area for the main depot and even this site imposes limitations on the space available for the development of the depot."

Inevitably the mass transit scheme will involve some clearance operations, he said, but these will only be undertaken when there is no alternative.

"Taking into account the tremendous size of the project, and the many thousands of people who will benefit, there will be relatively few clearances, and this can be regarded as a significant achievement," Mr. Wilkins added.

"Our aim is to avoid causing any more dislocation than is necessary, in order to minimise inconvenience to those who will be affected."

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing an artist's impression of the depot will be boxed this evening.

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KWANGTUNG WATER AUTHORITY OFFICIALS BEGIN VISIT

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Six senior officials of the Kwangtung Water Authority arrived in Hong Kong this morning for a seven-day visit as guests of the Director of Public Works, Mr. J.J. Robson.

They crossed the border at Lowu at 10.40 a.m. and were welcomed by the Director.

Shortly after the arrival, the party, accompanied by Mr. Robson and other senior officials of the Public Works Department, left by car to visit the Muk Wu and Indus pumping stations at Sheung Shui. Later in the day they inspected the cross-harbour tunnel.

The Chinese delegation is led by Mr. Wang Yung, the Director of the East River-Shumchun Water Supply Project Administration Bureau of Kwangtung Province.

Other members of the party are: Mr. Tang Te-chun, Principal Water Engineer of the Bureau of Water Conservancy and Electric Power, Kwangtung Province; Mr. Ma En-yao, Engineer of the same Bureau; Mr. Bi Te-kuang, Engineer of the East River-Shumchun Water Supply Project Administration Bureau; Mr. Yuan Liu, Engineer of the East River-Shumchun Bureau and Mr. Chang Ching-ping, Secretary and Interpreter.

Among the water schemes to be visited by the delegation will be the Plover Cove Reservoir and the desalter site at Luk On Pai. They will also visit other engineering projects in Hong Kong.

/The visit .....

The visit is in return for Mr. Robson's one-week stay in Canton and parts of Kwangtung Province last November.

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Note to Editors: The delegation from the Kwangtung Water Authority will be visiting the Plover Cove reservoir tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon. Arrangements have been made for press photographers and television cameramen to cover the visit. Two vans will leave the Kowloon sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui post office at 2 p.m. sharp. The visit is due to begin at 3.15 p.m.

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NEW CENTRE FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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A new centre for mentally handicapped children will be officially opened on Wednesday (May 23) by the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas C.Y.Lee.

The centre in the growing industrial town of Kwai Chung, is already operational and at the moment has an enrolment of 31 mentally retarded children. It has a capacity for 100 children and this is expected to be reached within a year.

The Kwai Fong Morninglight Centre, as it is called, is the sixth project to be operated by the Hong Kong Association for Mentally Handicapped Children and Young Persons Limited, and is supported by a grant from the Lotteries Fund.

The Association already operates three centres and two special schools in the Wah Fu and Yau Tong public housing estates and in Tai Po.

The Kwai Chung centre is a day centre for moderately retarded children from 6-16. Its programme includes instruction in self-help, social adjustment training and crafts. The children are also taught language, number work and speech.

The curriculum lays strong emphasis on outdoor activities both recreational and educational.

A spokesman for the Association said the centre aims to provide the children with basic training geared to their developmental stage, to develop their potential and to provide an environment which satisfies their needs for acceptance and security.

/It operates .....

It operates on a three-term system and there is a school bus to provide transport for the pupils to and from their homes at a small cost. Lunch is provided by the Children's Meals Society at a very minimal charge.

Meetings between parents and teachers are planned for the end of each term to forge better links and co-operation between the centre and the children's families.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the opening of the Kwai Fong Morninglight Centre in the Kwai Fong public housing estate, Kwai Chung, New Territories, at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday (May 23).

Copies of Mr. Lee's speech in English and Chinese will be available from the GIS Press boxes, later that evening.

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LIFE GUARDS RETURN TO DUTY AT SILVER MINE BAY

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Urban Council life guards have returned to Silver Mine Bay following an incident on May 15 in which a number of them were assaulted.

The life guards stayed away from the beach yesterday (Sunday) morning but returned to the beach in the afternoon to carry out their duties.

The assault is being investigated by the police who have so far arrested six people.

A spokesman for the Urban Council said today the situation at Silver Mine Bay was now back to normal and life guards were now fully manning the beach again.

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MORE PLACES TO BUY LOTTERY TICKETS

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Tickets at $2 each for the first government lottery this year went on sale at even more centres today.

The 11 Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club selling booths on both sides of the harbour are now handling the tickets.

Since May 11, they have been on sale at 22 head offices and 238 branches of the following banks:

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank, the Dao Heng Bank, the Hang Seng Bank, the Hong Kong Chinese Bank, the Kwong On Bank, the Shanghai Commercial Bank, the Wing On Bank, the Bank of East Asia, the Mercantile Bank, the Banque Belge Pour L'etranger, the Banque de I'Indochine, the Hang Lung Bank, the Indian Overseas Bank, the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, the Hong Nin Savings Bank, the Tai Sang Bank, the Union Bank of Hong Kong, the Wing Hang Bank, the Liu Chong Hing Bank, the Commercial Bank of Hong Kong, and the Wing Lung Bank.

Tickets can also be bought at the Ngau Kee Money Changer, 66 Bonham Strand East and the Sun Cheung Kee Money Changer at 151 Connaught Road.

Prizes for the first lottery will be drawn on June 1.

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UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN LEAVING

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Note to Editors: Mr. Narcisco G. Reyes, chairman of the Executive Board of Unicef will be leaving Hong Kong tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon for Manila after a three-day visit here.

Mr. Reyes will be flying out by Philippine Air Lines flight number PR 301 ETD 2.20 p.m.

Before taking off, he will be available for interviews and to answer reporters' questions in the airport's V.I.P. room from 1.45 p.m. onwards.

Press representatives wishing to see Mr. Reyes should contact Mr. Kam Ying-tong, professional assistant to the Deputy Director of Social Welfare at the airport V.I.P. room.

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MORE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS FOR HONG KONG

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Plans for a 32-storey apartment building in Cloud View Road on Hong Kong Island were among a total of 68 building plans approved in March by the Building Authority.

Among the others approved were four blocks of 30-storey apartment/commercial buildings in Ngau Tau Kok Road, Kowloon, a 22-storey bank/office building in Shanghai Street, a 17-storey workshop building in Queen's Road West and a 15-storey factory building in Chai Wan.

Altogether 30 of the planned buildings are on the Island, 13 in Kowloon and 25 in the New Territories.

During the month, 53 buildings were certified for occupation. The declared total construction cost of these buildings was about $90 million.

In addition, the Building Authority gave permission for work to start on 39 building projects.

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WATER CUT IN HUNG HOM

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Water supply to a number of premises in Hung Hom will be interrupted on Wednesday (May 23), between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.

This is to allow the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The premises affected are bounded by Lok Shan Road, Kau Pui Lung Road, Chatham Road, Pak Kung Street, Hok Yuen Street, Chun Tin Street, Ma Tau Wei Road, Kowloon City Road and Pau Chung Street.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.