



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1977

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COMPUTERS TAKE OVER TRAFFIC CONTROL
IN WEST KOWLOON

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TRAFFIC CONTROL IN HONG KONG ENTERED THE ELECTRONIC AGE TODAY WHEN THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES, PUSHED A BUTTON SWITCHING ON A FULLY COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH AIMS TO BEAT CONGESTION IN THE BUSY WEST KOWLOON AREA.

THE NEW SYSTEM, DESIGNED BY A TEAM OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ENGINEERS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.K. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, IS EXPECTED TO CUT TRAVELLING TIME IN THE AREA BY UP TO 15 PER CENT.

IT BRINGS 83 TRAFFIC SIGNALS ALONG THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES OF SHAM SHUI PO, MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI AND PART OF TSIM SHA TSUI UNDER THE CONTROL OF TWO COMPUTERS HOUSED IN THE P.W.D.'S AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE IN THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

FROM DATA ON TRAFFIC FLOW AND CONGESTION FED THROUGH A SERIES OF VEHICLE DETECTORS TO THE CONTROL ROOM, IMMEDIATE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO CHANGE TRAFFIC PLANS TO SUIT PREVAILING CONDITIONS.

SWITCHING ON THE SYSTEM TODAY, MR. JONES SAID THE NEW COMPUTER CONTROL WAS THE FIRST OF A NUMBER OF NEW AND FAR REACHING DEVELOPMENTS IN TRAFFIC CONTROL IN HONG KONG WHICH WAS NOW MOVING TOWARDS THE FOREFRONT OF MODERN TRAFFIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY.

UP TO NOW, TRAFFIC CONTROL HAD BEEN OPERATED AT THE INDIVIDUAL JUNCTION LEVEL. +WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO MOVE AWAY FROM THAT, TOWARDS SYSTEMS WHERE WE CAN, AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, INFLUENCE TRAFFIC PATTERNS AND MOVEMENTS OVER A WIDE AREA,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM AND OTHERS TO FOLLOW ALSO OPENED UP A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, THE TRAFFIC POLICE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, FIRE SERVICES AND THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES.

+THIS CAN ONLY BE TO THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT AS WELL AS THAT OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

THIS FEELING WAS SHARED BY THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD WHO SAID THAT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WERE BEING HELD WITH THE POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAYS IN WHICH THE SYSTEM COULD BE DEVELOPED FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.

THE NEW SYSTEM -- SUPPLIED BY GEC-ELLIOTT TRAFFIC AUTOMATION -- HELD TREMENDOUS POSSIBILITIES, HE SAID, AND COULD CONTROL ABOUT DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS NOW CONNECTED TO IT.

/+HOWEVER,

+HOWEVER,+ SAID MR. STEAD, +BECAUSE THIS IS A TECHNIQUE NEW TO HONG KONG, BEFORE INITIATING ANY MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE PRESENT CONTROL AREA WE'VE DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE AN EVALUATION EXERCISE TO DETERMINE THE BENEFITS OF THIS SYSTEM IN WEST KOWLOON.

+THIS WILL PROBABLY TAKE A YEAR OR SO TO COMPLETE AND WE HOPE THEN TO BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE EXTENDED AND INDEED WHETHER OTHER SIMILAR SYSTEMS SHOULD BE INSTALLED ELSEWHERE IN THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

ONE ADDITION THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED, WAS THE INSTALLATION OF 10 CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS THROUGHOUT WEST KOWLOON WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE SYSTEM OPERATOR TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT CRITICAL POINTS, HE SAID.

THESE CAMERAS SHOULD BE IN OPERATION IN ABOUT TWO YEARS.

MR. STEAD SAID THAT WHILE NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED OVERNIGHT, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD IN THE LONG RUN BRING ABOUT VAST IMPROVEMENTS IN WEST KOWLOON.

BASED ON EVALUATIONS CARRIED OUT ELSEWHERE, HE EXPECTED THE SYSTEM TO CUT TRAVELLING TIME IN THE AREA BY BETWEEN 10 AND 15 PER CENT= REDUCE QUEUES AT TRAFFIC SIGNALS, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS= IMPROVE BUS JOURNEY TIMES= CUT JOURNEY TIMES FOR FIRE ENGINES= ENABLE QUICKER REPAIR OF FAULTY EQUIPMENT= AND REDUCE CONGESTION CAUSED BY ROADWORKS.

IN HIS ADDRESS MARKING THE OPENING OF THE COMPUTER CONTROL SYSTEM, MR. JONES SAID ONE OF ITS IMPORTANT FEATURES WAS THE GREAT FLEXIBILITY IT PROVIDED TO INTRODUCE VARIOUS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF AN OVERALL TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT POLICY.

+THIS FLEXIBILITY IN RESPONDING TO VARIOUS POLICY REQUIREMENTS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY THESE SYSTEMS ARE BEING INTRODUCED MORE AND MORE IN CONGESTED URBAN AREAS,+ HE SAID.

IN AREAS LIKE WEST KOWLOON, WHERE TRAFFIC LEVELS WERE ALREADY HEAVY, THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE OF MAJOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FULLY ALLEVIATING THE BUILD UP OF TRAFFIC, EVEN WITH EXPENSIVE DEVELOPMENTS LIKE THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, HE SAID.

+SO, IN THE FUTURE, SOME ADDITIONAL DEGREE OF RESTRAINT MAY BE NECESSARY IF THE ROAD SYSTEM IS NOT TO BECOME UNDULY CLOGGED, EVEN WHEN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS IN OPERATION.

+AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL IS ONE MEANS BY WHICH THIS CAN BE EFFECTED BY, FOR INSTANCE, USING THE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE EDGE OF THE CONGESTED AREA TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC INTO IT AT A LEVEL WHICH THE ROADS IN THE AREA CAN STAND,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE SYSTEM'S FLEXIBILITY WAS THAT IT COULD BE USED TO DIVERT TRAFFIC FROM THE MORE CONGESTED ROADS.

REFERRING TO THE NETWORK OF RESTRICTED ACCESS ROADS BEING PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED, MR. JONES SAID EMERGENCY TELEPHONES WOULD BE PROVIDED ON FLYOVERS AND RESTRICTED ACCESS ROADS TO PROVIDE A MEANS WHEREBY MOTORISTS IN DIFFICULTY COULD SPEEDILY OBTAIN ASSISTANCE.

+THE FIRST SUCH FACILITY WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE FIRST STAGE OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AT GASCOIGNE ROAD AND THE NEXT ALONG THE TUEN MUN MOTORWAY WHEN IT OPENS NEXT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES SAID A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE STUDY WAS ALSO BEING PLANNED AND SHOULD START VERY SOON.

+THIS WILL CONSIDER THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON THE 'RESTRICTED ACCESS' OR 'EXPRESSWAY' ROAD NETWORK WHICH IS NOW BEING PLANNED.

+AND IT WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE SPEEDY ATTENTION TO INCIDENTS ON THESE ROADS SO AS TO SMOOTH OUT TRAFFIC FLOW,+ HE SAID.

SUCH A SYSTEM OF SURVEILLANCE WOULD OF COURSE NEED TO BE LINKED UP WITH THE AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE INSTALLED, HE ADDED.

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+VIEWING COMPASSES+ PROVE POPULAR AMONG PICNICKERS
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THREE +VIEWING COMPASSES+ RECENTLY SET UP BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AT SELECTED SPOTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE HAVE PROVED VERY POPULAR AMONG PICNICKERS AND STUDENTS.

THE +VIEWING COMPASSES+ BUILT ON STONE PLATFORMS WITH DIRECTIONS AND DETAIL INFORMATION OF NEARBY LANDMARKS CARVED ON ROUND METAL PLATES ARE LOCATED AT THE BRIDE'S POOL IN TAI PO, LEAD MINE PASS IN SHING MUN AND NAM SHAN ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THEY ARE PART OF A PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE BETTER FACILITIES TO VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

MR. IU KOW-CHOY, FORESTRY OFFICER OF THE COUNTRY PARKS DIVISION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT MORE +VIEWING COMPASSES+ WOULD BE SET UP WHEN SUITABLE LOCATIONS WERE FOUND.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT ONLY HIGH RISE POINTS WITH GOOD VISIBILITY AND NOTABLE LANDMARKS NEARBY WOULD BE CHOSEN.

MR. IU POINTED OUT THAT THE +VIEWING COMPASSES+ WOULD PROVIDE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS VISITORS WITH INFORMATION SUCH AS NAMES OF VARIOUS MOUNTAINS, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PLACES WHERE THEY ARE STANDING AND THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE LOOKING AT.

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PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL TO START 24-HOUR CASUALTY SERVICE
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THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK WILL PROVIDE A 24-HOUR CASUALTY SERVICE FROM MONDAY (APRIL 25) AS THE 1,300-BED MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL.

THE EXPANSION OF CASUALTY SERVICE COINCIDES WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED ON APRIL 1 AS PART OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HOSPITAL AND CLINIC SERVICES.

UNDER THE SCHEME, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL SERVES AS THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR WEST NEW TERRITORIES, PROVIDING FULL-TIME CASUALTY AND SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS IN THIS REGION.

WITH THE OPERATION OF THE ROUND-THE-CLOCK CASUALTY SERVICE AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, THE HEAVY PRESSURE WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED ON QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IS EXPECTED TO BE FURTHER ALLEVIATED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES IN THE AREA IN WHICH THEY RESIDE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS IN EACH OF THE FOUR REGIONS UNDER THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME AND RESIDENTS SHOULD GO TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL IF THEY NEED EMERGENCY TREATMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED RESIDENTS NOT TO CONFUSE CASUALTY SERVICE, WHICH IS FOR TREATING EMERGENCY CASES, WITH GENERAL OUTPATIENT SERVICE PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT CLINICS.

HE SAID QUITE A LARGE PROPORTION OF CASES SEEN AT CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN AT THE OUT-PATIENT CLINICS, WHICH ARE SET UP IN ALMOST EVERY DISTRICT THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

+NON-EMERGENCY CASES TURNING UP AT THE CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS WOULD DELAY TREATMENT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION,+HE STRESSED.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 606,000 CASES WERE DEALT WITH AT THE CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT ASSISTED HOSPITALS. OF THESE, 40 PER CENT WENT THROUGH THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL ALONE.

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THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS TO TAKE PART
IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMME
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THOUSANDS OF BOYS AND GIRLS, FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE PROGRAMME WHICH IS TO START ON JULY 15 AND END ON SEPTEMBER 1 IS SUPPORTED BY DONATIONS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

AMONG THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED, CAMPING IS THE MOST POPULAR. THIS YEAR, TEN SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SETTING UP SCHOOL CAMPS DURING JULY AND AUGUST. THERE WILL BE THREE-DAY CAMPS AND FOUR-DAY CAMPS.

THESE SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED AT LANTAO, SAI KUNG, TOLO HARBOUR, CHEUNG CHAU, SHA TAU KOK AND YUEN LONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID : +THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMP IS TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO EXTEND CLASSROOM THEORY INTO FIELDWORK IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS GEOGRAPHY, BIOLOGY, NATURE STUDY, BOTANY AND SURVEYING WITH THE ADDED FLAVOUR OF HIKING, CANOEING, SWIMMING AND SIMILAR PURPOSEFUL FORMS OF RECREATION.+

+LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 30,000 PUPILS TOOK PART IN CAMPS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY SCHOOLS AND THE DEPARTMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE NOT BEING NEGLECTED. THERE WILL BE ONE-DAY CAMPS AND SWIMMING LESSONS FOR THEM AT THE LIFE GUARD CLUB TRAINING HEADQUARTERS IN REPULSE BAY.

TWO NEW PROJECTS TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR ARE A GARDENING PROGRAMME AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION FOR ALL SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO HELP BY ORGANISING SCHOOL VISITS. THESE VISITS ARE EDUCATIONAL IN THAT THEY GIVE A GOOD ASPECT OF CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

DURING THESE VISITS, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL SHOW THE STUDENTS ROUND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FARMS, COUNTRY PARKS, FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION AREAS WHILE THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL SHOW THEM MAJOR WORK SITES, GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, PLANTS AND BUILDINGS. VISITS TO POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL WHICH HAVE BEEN VERY POPULAR AMONG STUDENTS ARE ALSO MAINTAINED.

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HK STUDENTS WIN CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
IN +YOUNG ARTISTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH+ EXHIBITION IN LONDON
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SIXTEEN HONG KONG SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE WON CERTIFICATES OF MERIT IN THE +YOUNG ARTISTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH+ EXHIBITION NOW BEING HELD IN LONDON.

TWENTY COMMONWEALTH CONTRIES TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE. ENTRIES FROM EACH ARE RESTRICTED TO 30. THE YOUNG ARTISTS CAN CHOOSE ANY SUBJECT AND HAVE A CHOICE OF DIFFERENT MEDIA TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

THE ENTRIES FROM HONG KONG, MOSTLY PAINTINGS, WERE SELECTED FROM AMONG 852 SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS IN 70 SCHOOLS.

ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION WERE MADE BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON.

DETAILS OF THE 16 AWARD-WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME -----	SCHOOL -----
CHAN SEE-KUEN)	BUT SAN SCHOOL
) JOINT WORK	
)	
NG MAU-CHUNG)	BUT SAN SCHOOL
LUNG SEE-WAN	KEI TSUN (A.M.) SCHOOL
TAM WAI-LAN	YAUMATI CATHOLIC (P.M.) SCHOOL
CHENG WAI-SAU	YAUMATI CATHOLIC (A.M.) SCHOOL
CHENG OI-LUN	LAM TIN METHODIST PRIMARY (A.M.) SCHOOL
WU CHUNG-MING)	ISLAND ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
)	
) JOINT WORK	
)	
LAU CHI-CHOI)	ISLAND ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL
WANG NGAI-HING	SHA TIN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL
MANNA LEUNG	HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL
CHEUNG PAK-SHING	SAI KUNG FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN SCHOOL
VERONICA BUT	MARYKNOLL SISTERS SCHOOL
MICHELLE KWOK)	HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL
) JOINT	
)	
LINDA IP)	HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL
)	
)	
CHRISTINA IP)	HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL
) WORK	
)	
ANGELINE PONG)	HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL
) (CRAFTWORK)	

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MEANWHILE, TWO HONG KONG CHILDREN HAVE WON PRIZES IN A PAINTING COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF IN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES.

NGAI CHUNG YIN OF HONG KONG SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, DIAMOND HILL, WON THE SECOND PRIZE FOR THE UNDER SEVEN AGE GROUP AND NG TAT CHEONG OF VICTORIA PARK SCHOOL WAS THIRD IN THE EIGHT TO ELEVEN AGE GROUP.

THEIR PAINTINGS ARE ON DISPLAY IN A JUBILEE EXHIBITION AT THE ART GALLERY OF THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE, LONDON WHICH OPENED ON APRIL 15 AND CONTINUES UNTIL MAY 11.

ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION NUMBERED OVER 400 AND WERE JUDGED BY THE DUKE OF GRAFTON.

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CHINA ENGINEERS BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY ISSUED AN ORDER FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE CHINA ENGINEERS BUILDING AT 166 WAI YIP STREET, KWUN TONG.

THE ORDER REQUIRES THE OWNERS, THE CHINA ENGINEERS LTD., TO BEGIN DEMOLITION WORK WITHIN THREE WEEKS AND COMPLETE IT WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT CRUSHING TESTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT LABORATORY ON A COMPREHENSIVE SERIES OF CONCRETE SAMPLES OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDING.

THE TESTS INDICATED THAT THE CONCRETE THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING WAS GENERALLY OF SUCH POOR QUALITY THAT THERE WAS DANGER OF FAILURE OF THE STRUCTURE.

FURTHER TESTS ARE NOW BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE SAMPLES TO GET DETAILED INFORMATION OF THE ACTUAL COMPOSITION OF THE STRUCTURAL CONCRETE USED IN THE BUILDING.

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