



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HK OFFERS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES - LORD YOUNG	1
LIVELY RESPONSE DEMONSTRATES CONCERN FOR EDUCATION - CS ...	2
CS HIGHLIGHTS INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, MANPOWER TRAINING ..	3
MOTORISTS URGED TO PAY FULL ATTENTION TO ROAD SAFETY	5
EPCOM URGES MORE ANTI-POLLUTION EFFORTS IN N.T.	8
EMPLOYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON II JOB BAN	10
TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW	11
SUMMER TIME ON TUEN MUN DB AGENDA	11
QUARTERLY REPORT ON LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS	12
COURSES FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS	12
ORIENTEERING COMPETITION ON FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS	13
CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICE CENTRE FOR WSD	14
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	14
SALT WATER CUT IN MID-LEVELS	15
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN KWAI CHUNG	15

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 1 -

HK OFFERS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES - LORD YOUNG

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THE UNITED KINGDOM'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS DO NOT VIEW 1997 AS THE CLOSING OF AN ERA BUT AS THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HONG KONG MARKET, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, LORD YOUNG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE TOLD THE BRITISH BULLDOGS AND THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG THAT IT WAS RIGHT TO VIEW 1997 WITH CONFIDENCE. HONG KONG WAS AN IMPORTANT MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

"HONG KONG'S SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IS BUILT ON TRADE. THE UK'S ONE BILLION STERLING OF EXPORTS ACTUALLY AMOUNTS TO ONLY THREE PER CENT OF THE MARKET," HE SAID.

"I AM SURE THERE MUST BE MANY MORE UK COMPANIES WHO COULD BE HERE EXPLOITING OUR TIES OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, BUSINESS PRACTICE AND ETHICS."

LORD YOUNG SAID HONG KONG OFFERED EASILY ACCESSIBLE MARKETS, PAYMENT IN A READILY EXCHANGED CURRENCY AND A FREEDOM FROM BUREAUCRATIC CONTROLS.

AND ITS BOOMING ECONOMY MEANT THAT THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WERE THERE.

"OF COURSE THIS MEANS THAT HONG KONG IS ALSO A VERY COMPETITIVE MARKET. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT NEVER BEFORE HAVE UK COMPANIES BEEN AS WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE BRITISH ECONOMY, LORD YOUNG SAID: "WE ARE ENTERING OUR EIGHTH SUCCESSIVE YEAR OF STEADY GROWTH, FASTER THAN ALL OTHER MAJOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES.

"WE HAVE BEEN LOSING OUR SHARE OF WORLD TRADE ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY FOR OVER 100 YEARS. BUT NO LONGER. SINCE 1981 WE HAVE STOPPED THE ROT.

"LAST YEAR WE ACTUALLY INCREASED OUR SHARE OF WORLD EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS. AND PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING HAS INCREASED BY OVER A HALF SINCE 1980, GROWING FASTER THAN ANY MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY."

LORD YOUNG SAID THE UK'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS BUILT ON VERY MUCH THE SAME FOUNDATIONS AS HONG KONG'S.

/"WE TOO

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 2 -

"WE TOO BELIEVE IN OPEN MARKETS. WE TOO BELIEVE IN NOT INTERFERING IN THE MARKET PLACE. WE TOO BELIEVE IN LOW TAXATION AND LOW INFLATION," HE SAID.

LORD YOUNG CONCLUDED: "BUT THE MOST ENCOURAGING COMPARISON BETWEEN THE UK AND HONG KONG LIES IN THE RESURGENCE OF AN ENTERPRISE CULTURE IN THE UK. THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE LONG HAD A REPUTATION AS ENTREPRENEURS. I LIKE TO THINK THIS IS BECOMING MORE TRUE IN THE UK."

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LIVELY RESPONSE DEMONSTRATES CONCERN FOR EDUCATION - CS

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3 HAD GENERATED A VERY LIVELY RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING PEOPLE'S VIEWS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC PHYSICS CONFERENCE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HE NOTED THAT THE LIVELY CONCERN FOR EDUCATION IN HONG KONG WAS BEING DEMONSTRATED IN THE DEBATE, WHICH WOULD GO ON FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONSULTATION.

SIR DAVID SAID: "OBVIOUSLY EACH SECTOR OF THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY WHICH IS AFFECTED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BY THIS REPORT HAS THEIR OWN VIEW FROM THEIR OWN PARTICULAR STANDPOINT.

"WHAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION HAS TRIED TO DO IS TO TAKE AN OVERALL LOOK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND IT'S VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THIS REPORT AFFECTS THE SIXTH FORM SYLLABUS AND THE WHOLE OF THE SIXTH FORM COURSE AND MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY THAT.

"SO IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO TRY AND BALANCE ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS COVERED BY THIS REPORT."

HE ASKED CRITICS TO THINK UPON THAT FACTOR BEFORE THEY CAME TOO STRONGLY OUT FIGHTING FOR THEIR OWN CORNER WHICH WAS, OF COURSE, SOMETHING WHICH THEY WOULD WANT TO DO.

SIR DAVID SAID THE MAIN CONCERN IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WAS TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SIXTH FORM AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND THE REPORT WAS NOT IN ANY WAY GOVERNED BY FINANCIAL ASPECTS.

/WHEN ASKED

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 3 -

WHEN ASKED ABOUT AN INCREASED SHARE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN THE COSTS OF THE UPKEEP OF REFUGEES, SIR DAVID REPLIED: "AS WE HAVE SAID, WE ARE STARTING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNHCR OVER THE QUESTION OF SHARING COSTS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT, AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE UNHCR DO SHARE A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THE COST OF LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE SCREENED IN AND SCREENED OUT AS REFUGEES, SO IN HONG KONG WE SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCEPTION TO THAT BROAD GUIDELINE.

"THAT IS WHY WE ARE ENTERING INTO DISCUSSION NOW WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND WE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND HONG KONG'S SHARE OF THE COSTS WILL BE REDUCED."

ASKED ABOUT THE UNHCR'S ROLE IN THE RUNNING OF HONG KONG'S REFUGEE AFFAIRS, SIR DAVID SAID THE UNHCR WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY IMPORTANT.

"THEY ARE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS BODY HERE AND THEIR ROLE IS VERY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF FINDING RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR THOSE WHO ARE SCREENED IN AS REFUGEES," HE SAID.

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CS HIGHLIGHTS INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION, MANPOWER TRAINING

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INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TRAINING IS THE LARGEST COMPONENT IN PUBLIC SPENDING AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP ON RISING, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE SAID INVESTMENT IN THIS AREA HAD RISEN FROM 15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE IN 1983-84 TO 18 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

"IN OUR FORECAST OF PLANNED TRENDS IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THIS SHARE IS EXPECTED TO GROW EVEN FURTHER IN THE MEDIUM TERM FUTURE," HE SAID AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC PHYSICS CONFERENCE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE CONFERENCE, ONE OF THE LARGEST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES OF ITS KIND EVER HELD IN HONG KONG, IS BEING ATTENDED BY OVER 200 WORLD RENOWNED PHYSICISTS, INCLUDING THREE NOBEL LAUREATES.

/SIR DAVID

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 4 -

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT GENEROUSLY ENDOWED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES.

"INDEED, IT WOULD BE TRUE TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE OUR ONLY RESOURCE AND IT IS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR HUMAN RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR FUTURE GROWTH," HE SAID.

THEREFORE, THE INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TRAINING BECAME THE LARGEST COMPONENT IN PUBLIC SPENDING, HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID UP UNTIL RECENT YEARS, INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND MANPOWER TRAINING HAD BEEN LARGELY CONCERNED WITH MEETING THE HEAVY SOCIAL DEMAND, AND THUS WITH THE CREATION OF PLACES AND FACILITIES.

"AS OUR INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY MATURES, AND AS OUR COMPETITIVENESS BECOMES MORE DEPENDENT UPON THE ABILITY OF OUR WORKFORCE TO ABSORB AND USE TECHNOLOGY THAN ON MANUAL DEXTERITY, WE HAVE TO LOOK TO THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION MANPOWER TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

"THIS IS WHY OUR THIRD UNIVERSITY WILL BE STRUCTURED TOWARDS A GROUPING OF SCHOOLS EMPHASISING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS STUDIES.

"IT ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT WE ARE WORKING ON A SCHEME OF SPONSORED TRAINING FOR PRACTISING ENGINEERS AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS TO HELP THEM ABSORB AND APPLY THOSE TECHNOLOGIES THAT CANNOT YET BE TAUGHT FORMALLY IN OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID IT ALSO EXPLAINED WHY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT CENTRE FOR THE PLASTICS CONVERSION AND RELATED INDUSTRIES.

IT ALSO EXPLAINED WHY HONG KONG WAS SEEKING TO FORGE AN EVEN CLOSER WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER, THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF TECHNOLOGY CENTRES, HE SAID.

SIR DAVID TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT NINE YEARS OF FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED AND FIVE MAJOR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WERE MAINTAINED.

"WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE PLANNED PROVISION OF AN OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE, HONG KONG WILL HAVE, BY THE TURN OF THE PRESENT DECADE, SEVEN DEGREE-AWARDING INSTITUTIONS."

/HE SAID

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 5 -

HE SAID THE HEAVY INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION WAS COMPLEMENTED BY THE INVESTMENT IN MANPOWER TRAINING AT OPERATIVE, CRAFT, TECHNICIAN AND EQUIVALENT LEVELS.

"IN THIS AREA, WE NOW MAINTAIN NO FEWER THAN 16 TRAINING CENTRES, INCLUDING 12 THAT ARE WHOLLY DEVOTED TO THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, AND BY 1989 THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TURN OUT MORE THAN 22,000 GRADUATES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC PHYSICS CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENTISTS IN AND OUTSIDE THE REGION TO ANNOUNCE IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC RESULTS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS ON THEIR CURRENT AND FUTURE APPLICATION.

"OF COURSE WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT BREACHING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE BY A NEW DISCOVERY DID NOT AUTOMATICALLY OR NECESSARILY LEAD TO ITS COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION, AND THAT WE HAVE TO WORK TOWARDS REALISING THESE GOALS.

"CERTAINLY, ACADEMIA HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS ALONG WITH GOVERNMENTS AND THE USERS OF TECHNOLOGY.

"IN HONG KONG, WE ARE PARTICULARLY AWARE THAT A DISCOVERY OR A NEW PROCESS THAT WORKS IN ONE INDUSTRIAL CULTURE DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK IN ANOTHER.

"BUT I KNOW ALSO THAT MANY AMONGST YOU HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND INDEED YOUR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONS, BY HARNESSING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING MUCH FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM DURING THE WEEK AHEAD," HE ADDED.

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MOTORISTS URGED TO PAY FULL ATTENTION TO ROAD SAFETY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (MONDAY) URGED MOTORISTS TO BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER ROAD USERS AND TO PAY FULL ATTENTION TO SAFETY WHEN DRIVING BECAUSE ROADS HAD BECOME MORE CONGESTED AND ACCIDENTS HAD BEEN ON THE INCREASE, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, MR SO SAID THAT ROAD CONGESTION HAD CAUSED MUCH INCONVENIENCE AND FRUSTRATION TO ALL ROAD USERS AND HAD ALSO BEEN ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO A RISING ACCIDENT TREND.

/ALTHOUGH MEASURES

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 6 -

ALTHOUGH MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY WOULD CERTAINLY HELP REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY IN REDUCING ACCIDENTS RESTED WITH THE ROAD USERS, MR SO STRESSED.

HE CALLED ON ALL ROAD USERS TO BE PATIENT AND CAREFUL WHEN USING THE ROAD.

THE INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF CONGESTION COINCIDED WITH THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LICENSED VEHICLES.

IN 1987, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED VEHICLES INCREASED BY 8.5 PER CENT FROM 266,777 TO 289,386. THE TOTAL VEHICLE KILOMETRAGE RUN IN 1987 HAD ALSO RISEN BY ABOUT 8 PER CENT, CORRESPONDING WITH THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE VEHICLE FLEET.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ABOUT 50 KILOMETRES OF NEW ROADS WERE CONSTRUCTED, REPRESENTING SOME 3.8 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ROAD KILMETRAGE OF 1,350 IN HONG KONG.

"THE TOTAL NET EFFECT OF THIS IS THAT OUR ROADS HAVE BECOME MORE CONGESTED, ESPECIALLY AT KEY CORRIDORS SUCH AS THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND CENTRAL, NATHAN ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND KWUN TONG ROAD."

"OUR ROADS HAVE BECOME SO CONGESTED NOW THAT SHOULD THERE BE A MAJOR INCIDENT BLOCKING PART OF A KEY CORRIDOR, THE RESULT COULD BE DISASTROUS," MR SO SAID.

NOTING THAT IN THE LONG-TERM THE SECOND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY AND OTHER STUDIES WOULD PROVIDE SOME SOLUTIONS TO THE CONGESTION PROBLEM, MR SO OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO EASE THE SITUATION.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME AND IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS IT WAS EXPECTED THAT SOME 80 KILOMETRES OF NEW OR IMPROVED ROADWAYS WOULD BE OPENED.

IN ADDITION, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD TRY ITS BEST TO APPLY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ESPECIALLY ALONG KEY CORRIDORS.

THE LION ROCK TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND STEPS WERE NOW IN HAND TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW TO AND THROUGH THE TUNNEL.

THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 7 -

A NEW AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM COVERING THE WHOLE OF THE NORTH SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND WAS NEARING COMPLETION AND WHEN IT TOOK OVER THE EXISTING INITIAL SYSTEM LATER THIS YEAR, IT WOULD CERTAINLY HELP IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE CONGESTED PARTS OF CAUSEWAY BAY, WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, MR SO SAID.

AS OUR ROADS BECAME MORE CONGESTED, ACCIDENTS INCREASED, HE SAID. SINCE 1987, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS HAD INCREASED BY 8.8 PER CENT AND MOST ACCIDENTS INVOLVED VEHICLE COLLISIONS.

MR SO OUTLINED THE WIDE RANGE OF MEASURES NOW IN HAND TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

IN 1987, THE ROAD SAFETY AND STANDARDS DIVISION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATED A TOTAL OF 152 TRAFFIC BLACKSPOTS AND RECOMMENDED REMEDIAL AND ENGINEERING MEASURES AT 107 LOCATIONS.

THESE MEASURES RANGED FROM STRAIGHTENING BENDS TO PAVING THE ROAD SURFACE WITH ANTI-SKID MATERIALS AND WERE GENERALLY EFFECTIVE IN CUTTING DOWN ACCIDENTS.

THE OTHER MEASURES WHICH WERE IN THE PIPELINE OR UNDER CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY INCLUDED STRICTER CONTROL OVER LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE SEAT BELT LAW TO COVER THE FRONT SEAT OCCUPANTS OF TAXIS AND LIGHT BUSES.

IN ADDITION, A NEW PIECE OF LEGISLATION WAS BEING DRAFTED AT PRESENT WITH THE AIM OF MAKING IT SAFER TO USE THE EXPRESSWAYS IN HONG KONG.

CONSIDERATION WAS NOW BEING GIVEN TO AMEND THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR DRIVERS WITH LESS THAN TWO YEARS DRIVING EXPERIENCE TO BE DISQUALIFIED AND TO INTRODUCE A DISTINCTIVE LICENCE FOR NEW DRIVERS.

TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, A WHOLE SERIES OF LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE IN THE PIPELINE, MR SO SAID.

THESE INCLUDED REQUIRING LEARNER DRIVERS OF MOTORCYCLES TO COMPLETE A COMPULSORY OFF-STREET TRAINING COURSE AND PASS A TEST BEFORE GETTING A LEARNER LICENCE.

LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THE FITTING OF GUARDRAILS TO LIGHT BUS WINDOWS AND TO APPLY PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE TO PRIVATE ROADS, MR SO ADDED.

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/8

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 8 -

EPCOM URGES MORE ANTI-POLLUTION EFFORTS IN N.T.

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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) TODAY (MONDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO CONTROL VARIOUS POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND TO ERADICATE NUMEROUS EYESORES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT DISCARDED ITEMS STREWN ABOUT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SUCH AS ABANDONED VEHICLES, OLD TYRES, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND BUILDING DEBRIS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID.

AT A MEETING, EPCOM MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ON VARIOUS EFFORTS BY THE DEPARTMENT TO TACKLE POLLUTION AND POLLUTION-RELATED PROBLEMS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE FIRST HALF YEAR'S OPERATION OF THE NEW VEHICLE SMOKE CONTROL PROGRAMME, AND ENDORSED A REVISED VERSION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE TO ENSURE THE SAFE HANDLING, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES.

MEMBERS FELT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE USE OF SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER, AND ENDORSED PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO RESTRICT THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUELS USED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF HONG KONG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A MULTI-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED TO FORMULATE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

MEMBERS WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL TO SECURE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH THE UPGRADING OR REDEVELOPMENT OF 'AGRICULTURAL PRIORITY AREAS', AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE REST OF THE TERRITORY TO BRING ABOUT ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY SUPPORTED CURRENT EFFORTS TO CLEAR UP EYESORES SUCH AS ABANDONED VEHICLES, DISCARDED TYRES AND BUILDING DEBRIS, BUT THEY REMAINED CONCERNED THAT ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS LARGELY UNCOORDINATED, AND URGED THAT MORE STRENUOUS AND UNIFIED EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO CONTROL THIS PROBLEM, HE ADDED.

THE SMOKY VEHICLE TESTING CENTRE SET UP BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) BECAME OPERATIONAL ON FEBRUARY 5.

/UP TO

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 9 -

UP TO MAY 20, 1,953 VEHICLES HAD BEEN TESTED AND ABOUT SIX PER CENT OF THESE VEHICLES FAILED THE EXAMINATION.

THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF VEHICLES EMITTING SMOKE WAS DUE TO POOR MAINTENANCE, AND MOST VEHICLES TESTED HAD BEEN REPAIRED IN THE FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE TEST, EPCOM MEMBERS NOTED.

THE STAFFING FOR THE EPD'S VEHICLE TESTING PROGRAMME WOULD BE BROUGHT UP TO FULL STRENGTH WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AT FULL CAPACITY, THE CENTRE WILL BE ABLE TO TEST 17,000 VEHICLES PER ANNUM.

A REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE HANDLING, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES WAS ENDORSED BY THE MEMBERS.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE HAD BEEN UPDATED TO CATER FOR LARGE SCALE ASBESTOS DISPOSAL OPERATIONS, WHICH HAD BECOME COMMON SINCE THE CODE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 1985.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS FELT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BECOME A PARTY TO THE UNITED KINGDOM'S RATIFICATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS PROTOCOL, ISSUED UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER, SPECIFIES CONTROLS ON THE CONSUMPTION AND USE OF CHLOROFUOROCARBONS (CFCS) AND HALONS, WHICH DAMAGE THE OZONE LAYER.

THE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF THESE CHEMICALS, COMMONLY USED AS REFRIGERANTS AND AEROSOL PROPELLANTS, AND FOR FOAM BLOWING, WILL PROGRESSIVELY REDUCE OVER 10 YEARS FROM 1989.

MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO MAKE REGULATIONS UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE TO RESTRICT THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUELS USED IN VARIOUS AREAS IN HONG KONG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EPD HAD, UNTIL NOW, CONTROLLED THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF FUELS IN FANLING/SHA TAU KOK, TAI PO, SHA TIN, PORT SHELTER AND JUNK BAY THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS.

THESE AREAS WERE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO AIR POLLUTION.

THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL REGULARISE THE EXISTING POLICY OF PERMITTING ONLY NON-SULPHUR-BEARING INDUSTRIAL FUELS IN SHA TIN, AND FUELS WITH LESS THAN ONE PER CENT SULPHUR CONTENT IN THE OTHER AREAS.

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/10

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 10 -

EMPLOYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON II JOB BAN
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED EMPLOYERS TODAY (MONDAY) OF THE PROHIBITION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND OTHER UNEMPLOYABLE PERSONS.

"ANY PERSON WHO EMPLOYS AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT OR ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT LAWFULLY EMPLOYABLE COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT UPON CONVICTION," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"IN 1987, 88 EMPLOYERS WERE PROSECUTED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OR TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS. FIVE OF THEM WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT.

"IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 84 EMPLOYERS WERE PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED, INCLUDING SIX WHO WERE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM THREE MONTHS TO SIX MONTHS," HE ADDED.

EMPLOYERS ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO INSPECT THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF EMPLOYEES. IN CASE OF DOUBT, THEY CAN SEEK ADVICE FROM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT BY CALLING ITS HOTLINE - 5-8933744.

"LAST YEAR, WE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 3,881 CALLS ON THE HOTLINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF 97 PERSONS.

"IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED 1,427 CALLS, RESULTING IN 23 ARRESTS.

"EMPLOYERS WHO USE THE HOTLINE ARE NOT ONLY PROTECTING THEMSELVES BUT ALSO HELPING US IN OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION."

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED. THOSE WHO HAVE BROKEN THE LAWS OF HONG KONG WILL ALSO BE PROSECUTED BEFORE REPATRIATION.

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/11

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 11 -

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE CONSULTANCY STUDY REPORT ON THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES BEFORE AND AFTER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY FARE REVISIONS IN MAY.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS AN APPLICATION BY THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY LTD FOR AN EXTENSION OF ITS FRANCHISE.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE AIMS OF THE METROPLAN.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

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SUMMER TIME ON TUEN MUN DB AGENDA

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AN OFFICER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH WILL ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO EXPLAIN THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF INTRODUCING SUMMER TIME.

THE MEMBERS WILL THEN GIVE THEIR OPINIONS ON THE MATTER.

AN OFFICIAL OF THE SECURITY BRANCH WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING, TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATED TO HONG KONG AS BEING A PORT OF FIRST ASYLUM FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A DISCUSSION ON THE METROPLAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, AND A PROPOSAL ON SETTING UP AN EFFICIENT TIMESCALE FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS.

THE REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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/12

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 12 -

QUARTERLY REPORT ON LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1988 IS NOW AVAILABLE.

IT CONTAINS STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOR THE QUARTER.

IT ALSO CONTAINS DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR FORCE, INCLUDING THEIR AGE AND SEX, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ACTIVITY STATUS, OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS AS WELL AS REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CENTRAL. THE PRICE IS \$10 PER COPY.

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COURSES FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS

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TEACHERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART AT A NUMBER OF EVENING COURSES OFFERED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE NEXT (1988/89) ACADEMIC YEAR, TO IMPROVE THEIR TEACHING SKILLS AND UPDATE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER.

THERE WILL BE ONE-YEAR COURSES ON MUSIC FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND TRAINING OF PROFICIENCY IN PUTONGHUA.

THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO-YEAR COURSES ON ART AND CRAFT FOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, FOLK DANCE AND ORIENTAL DANCE FOR ALL TEACHERS.

EACH COURSE WILL CONSIST OF LECTURES AND PRACTICAL WORK, AND CLASSES WILL BE HELD NORMALLY FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM IN THE EVENING ONCE A WEEK.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED A CERTIFICATE ON COMPLETION OF A COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS AND THE OUTLINE OF COURSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 5/F, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY AND THE COMPLETED FORM SHOULD REACH THE SECTION BEFORE JUNE 30.

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/13

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 13 -

ORIENTEERING COMPETITION ON FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS

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THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT JUNIOR POLICE CALL ARE JOINTLY HOLDING AN ORIENTEERING COMPETITION TO DRIVE HOME THE ANTI-DRUG AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MESSAGES.

THE COMPETITION, OPEN TO ALL YOUNGSTERS, IS DIVIDED INTO THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS WITH EACH DIVISION CONSISTING OF TWO SECTIONS -- ONE FOR THOSE BETWEEN 13 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE AND THE OTHER FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 24.

IT WILL BE HELD AT UPPER PAK TIN ESTATE, SO UK ESTATE AND MEI FOO SUN CHUEN IN SHAM SHUI PO ON JULY 10, 17 AND 31 RESPECTIVELY.

COMPETITORS WILL BE REQUESTED TO COLLECT, WITHIN A TIME FRAME, QUESTION SHEETS AT DIFFERENT CHECK POINTS THROUGH GOING AROUND SOME PRE-DETERMINED AREAS AND ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON JPC AND ANTI-DRUG ISSUES.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL GO TO THE ONE WHO SCORES THE HIGHEST MARK WITH THE SHORTEST TIME REQUIRED.

ENTRY FORMS AND DETAILS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE AT THE POLICE STATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICES IN SHAM SHUI PO; SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES; SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT JPC CLUBHOUSE AND THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

ENTRIES MUST BE RETURNED BY JULY 2, EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION ON THE 23RD FLOOR OF QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HONG KONG OR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT JPC CLUBHOUSE ON THE PODIUM LEVEL, 1ST FLOOR, 'LAI LAN HOUSE, LAI KO ESTATE, SHAM SHUI PO.

ALL ENTRANTS WILL BE GIVEN A SOUVENIR.

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN CALL 5-8622766 OR 3-612737 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

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/14

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 14 -

CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICE CENTRE FOR WSD

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF 1,310 SQUARE METRES, THE CENTRE WILL BE A FIVE-STOREY STRUCTURE WITHIN A SITE OF ABOUT 4,300 SQUARE METRES.

ITS LOCATION IS BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, JAVA ROAD AND MAN HONG STREET, NORTH POINT.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A CANTEEN AND A RECREATIONAL ROOM.

A SINGLE STOREY GOODS STORE WILL ALSO BE BUILT INSIDE THE SITE.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER AND TAKE A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

ON COMPLETION, THE CENTRE WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AS A SUB-OFFICE FOR THE HONG KONG AND ISLANDS REGION AND THIS CENTRE WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE IN BULLOCK LANE.

TENDERS CLOSE AT NOON ON JULY 15.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 25.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 149.935 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 370.954 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 63.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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/15

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1988

- 15 -

SALT WATER CUT IN MID-LEVELS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAY (JUNE 21) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY GARDEN ROAD, COTTON TREE DRIVE, KENNEDY ROAD, BORRETT ROAD, BOWEN ROAD AND MAGAZINE GAP ROAD.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN KWAI CHUNG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN KWAI CHUNG TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, THE RIGHT-TURNING SLIP ROAD FROM CHEUNG WING ROAD ONTO THE NEW TERRITORIES-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 22) AND FRIDAY (JUNE 24).

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS HEADING FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE DIVERTED TO TURN RIGHT AT THE JUNCTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 23) AND SATURDAY (JUNE 25), THE SECTION OF CHEUNG WING ROAD BETWEEN THE RIGHT-TURNING SLIP ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

MOTORISTS HEADING FOR KWAI CHUNG AND KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWOK SHUI ROAD, LEI MUK ROAD AND PROCEED ONTO KWAI CHUNG ROAD FOR THE REST OF THE JOURNEY.

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