



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
BETTER COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS WITH SCHOOLS	1
MOVES TO REDUCE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	2
EMPLOYMENT FIGURES UP	3
PROGRAMME OF SPORTS FOR ALL	5
INJURED WORKERS ENSURED HELP	7
HK JOINS AIR TALKS IN LONDON	8
DESALTER WAS A GOOD INVESTMENT	9
POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PACKETS TO CHINA	10
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS	11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 1 -

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IMPROVES CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION
* * * * *

CONTACTS AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SUPERVISORS, HEADS OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS, WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOLS DIVISION TOMORROW.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY ON THE EVE OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, SAID THE NEW SCHOOLS DIVISION WOULD REPLACE THE EXISTING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DIVISIONS AND BE HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR. LAM TAT-LAU.

THE ENLARGED DIVISION WILL HAVE ITS HEAD OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS. IT WILL HAVE THREE REGIONAL OFFICES, THE HEADS OF WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF KINDERGARTENS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THREE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS - HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES WILL SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOLS IN THEIR REGIONS.

MR. ALEC REEVE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE HONG KONG OFFICE, MR. TERRY T.L. CHENG THE KOWLOON OFFICE AND MR. DAVID C.S. LEUNG THE NEW TERRITORIES OFFICE.

THE HONG KONG OFFICE IS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, THE ONE IN KOWLOON ON THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH FLOORS OF THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD AND THE NEW TERRITORIES OFFICE ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MERGER OF THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DIVISIONS INTO A SCHOOLS DIVISION IS TO ENABLE UNIFIED REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF KINDERGARTENS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT SECONDARY, PREVOCATIONAL, ENGLISH-SPEAKING AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED AND SUPERVISED IN THE HEAD OFFICE AS AT PRESENT.

THE MERGER HAS MATERIALISED AS A RESULT OF THE EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE INTRODUCTION OF NINE YEARS SUBSIDISED EDUCATION - SIX YEARS OF FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION FOLLOWED BY THREE YEARS OF SUBSIDISED SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD - THE ABOLITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, THE INTRODUCTION OF A SCHOOL NET SYSTEM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT SHORTLY OF DISTRICT COUNCILS.

A CIRCULAR HAS BEEN SENT TO THE HEADS OF ALL SCHOOLS NOTIFYING THEM OF THE CREATION OF THE SCHOOLS DIVISION AND GIVING THEM DETAILS OF THE REORGANISATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

CRACKDOWN ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

* * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL STEP UP ITS ENFORCEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO REDUCE THE HIGH RATE OF ACCIDENTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS SAID TODAY WHEN LAUNCHING A MONTH-LONG INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE OVER 30,000 ACCIDENTS AND MORE THAN 100 DEATHS LAST YEAR WHILE TEN YEARS AGO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WAS 7,000.

+IN FINANCIAL TERMS, THESE ACCIDENTS COST THE HONG KONG ECONOMY MORE THAN \$100 MILLION. THIS MUST BE ADDED TO THE UNIT COST OF PRODUCTION AND THUS AFFECTING OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION. THESE ACCIDENTS ALSO COST AN UNQUANTIFIABLE AMOUNT OF HUMAN PAIN, SUFFERING AND PERMANENT DISABILITY,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE ACCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY DANGEROUS MACHINERY, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE THE LEAST DIFFICULT TO PREVENT SINCE THE MAIN REQUIREMENT WAS THE PROVISION OF GUARDS ON DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY AND ENSURING THAT THESE GUARDS WERE NOT REMOVED.

REFERRING TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS WHICH WERE ENACTED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, MR. WILLIAMS SAID IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THEN THAT THEY WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL APRIL 1 THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE INDUSTRY MORE THAN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD OF GRACE TO CARRY OUT WHATEVER WORK WAS NECESSARY.

THERE WAS A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH THE REGULATIONS WOULD BE ENFORCED 'WITH DISCRETION'.

+THIS PERIOD IS NOW ALMOST OVER AND I AM HERE GIVING NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT. I HOPE THAT ALL CONCERNED WILL TAKE NOTE,+ THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS APPROACHING THE PROBLEM OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ON SEVERAL FRONTS. THE NEXT PHASE WAS THE PRESENT SAFETY CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD INTRODUCE THE CHARACTER OF +SAFETY SAM+ WHO WOULD APPEAR IN A T.V. FILLER FILM AND FUTURE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PROMOTIONS.

+IT IS HOPED,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID, +THAT THIS SOMEWHAT LIGHT-HEARTED APPROACH TO WHAT IS A SERIOUS SUBJECT WILL TRIGGER A RESPONSE IN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES IN THE SAME WAY THAT LAP SAP CHUNG HAS HELPED TO CREATE LITTER-CONSCIOUSNESS.+

MEANWHILE, FACTORY INSPECTORS HAD MODIFIED THEIR METHOD OF INSPECTING FACTORIES SO AS TO GIVE MORE ADVICE WITH DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH FACTORY MANAGEMENT.

THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE WOULD ALSO CONTINUE ITS PROGRAMME OF SAFETY COURSES FREE OF CHARGE TO INDUSTRY WHICH WERE A WAY OF REACHING THE PEOPLE +IN THE FRONT LINE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BATTLE,+ THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT UP
IN JUNE
* * * *

A TOTAL OF 775,800 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AS AT JUNE 15, 1977, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 19,500 PERSONS OR 2.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 756,300 PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1977.

INDUSTRIES WHERE EMPLOYMENT ROSE INCLUDED PLASTIC TOYS, ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, MISCELLANEOUS PLASTIC PRODUCTS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND KNITWEAR FROM YARN.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 748,800 PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE LAST YEAR, MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN THE SAME MONTH THIS YEAR WAS HIGHER BY 27,000 PERSONS OR 3.6 PER CENT.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST INDUSTRY GROUPS REMAINED WEARING APPAREL, TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

A COMPARISON OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT FIGURES OVER THE PAST YEAR IS GIVEN BELOW :-

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1977	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1977	CHANGE OF JUNE 1977 OVER MARCH 1977	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	258,421	259,380	256,408	- 2,972	- 1.1
TEXTILES	119,615	110,144	106,019	- 4,125	- 3.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES	79,446	85,828	93,561	+ 7,733	+ 9.0
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	79,331	77,156	87,753	+10,597	+ 13.7
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	63,308	68,635	72,241	+ 3,606	+ 5.3

MAIN INCREASES OR DECREASES AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR LEVEL
BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE 1977 ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

INDUSTRY SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1977	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1977	CHANGE OF JUNE 1977 OVER MARCH 1977	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
PLASTIC TOYS	42,274	41,108	47,760	+ 6,652	+ 16.2
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	62,434	68,490	75,134	+ 6,644	+ 9.7
MISCELLANEOUS PLASTIC PRODUCTS	30,556	29,276	32,484	+ 3,208	+ 11.0
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	27,700	28,412	30,501	+ 2,089	+ 7.4
KNITWEAR FROM YARN	21,523	21,840	22,745	+ 905	+ 4.1
PLASTIC FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE	6,501	6,771	7,509	+ 737	+ 10.9
BUFFING, POLISHING AND ELECTRO-PLATING	4,065	5,137	5,696	+ 559	+ 10.9
JOB PRINTING	13,740	14,414	14,924	+ 510	+ 3.5
SOFT DRINKS AND CARBONATED WATERS INDUSTRIES	2,515	2,218	2,718	+ 500	+ 22.5
GARMENTS EXCEPT KNITWEAR FROM YARN	208,016	205,633	201,800	- 3,833	- 1.9
COTTON WEAVING	33,448	28,354	27,081	- 1,273	- 4.5
COTTON SPINNING	20,528	19,967	18,710	- 1,257	- 6.3

DETAILED FIGURES OF EMPLOYMENT FOR OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS
AND BREAKDOWNS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST
FROM THE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND
STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 5 -

SPORT AND RECREATION FOR EVERY AGE AND INTEREST

THE PROGRAMME LINED UP BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE FOR SEPTEMBER IS A MIXED BAG OF ACTIVITIES WHICH HAS EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE, FROM WESTERN STYLE FENCING TO CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS, FROM MOUNTAIN ORIENTEERING TO WATER POLO AND FROM A NOVEL TRICYCLE OBSTACLE RACE TO A TRADITIONAL LANTERN CARNIVAL.

THE FENCING CLASSES ARE AMONG SOME OF THE 150 NEW COURSES BEING OPENED FOR THE MONTH, AND WILL BE HELD AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE HUNG HOM MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, THE TOP FLOORS OF WHICH WERE RECENTLY ALLOCATED FOR USE AS AN INDOOR GAMES STADIUM TO PROVIDE MORE SPACE FOR THE EXPANDING RANKS OF SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS.

FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESS WITH TAI CHI, WHICH SAW THE MUSHROOMING OF CLASSES ALL OVER HONG KONG, THE SERVICE IS PROMOTING OTHER CHINESE MARTIAL ART FORMS, WITH THE HELP OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION, NOT NECESSARILY FOR SELF-PROTECTION BUT TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN BODY EXERCISE.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD TWO EVENINGS A WEEK AT CENTRES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON AS WELL AS IN YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, AND PENG CHAU IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A FOUR-DAY ORIENTEERING COURSE, TO BE HELD ON TWO WEEKENDS AT THE OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL, IS ONE OF SEVEN NEW CAMPING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE MONTH. THE OTHERS WILL BE HELD AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, FOR FAMILY GROUPS, FOR MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND SPECIALLY FOR KOWLOON CITY AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

CLASSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN SKIN-DIVING, SNORKELLING, LIFE-SAVING AND WATER POLO. NEW CLASSES ARE BEING OPENED FOR LEARNER SWIMMERS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF AQUATIC SPORTS MEETS, INCLUDING A WATER SPORT CARNIVAL AT CASTLE PEAK BAY, WILL BE HELD TO MARK THE APPROACHING END OF THE SWIMMING SEASON.

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IS COMING UP AND AS IN PAST YEARS VICTORIA PARK WILL BE TURNED INTO A FAIR GROUND FOR A TWO-DAY CARNIVAL. THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE REVELRY WITH THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND OTHER ORGANISERS IN STAGING A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME OF VARIED ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE TRADITIONAL LANTERN FESTIVAL.

VICTORIA PARK WILL ALSO BE THE VENUE OF AN UNUSUAL OBSTACLE CYCLING RACE THIS SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) MORNING. ENTRIES FOR THE RACES ARE STILL BEING INVITED FROM SCHOOL CHILDREN AND WORKERS IN CAUSEWAY BAY DISTRICT FOR THE THREE SECTIONS: A TRICYCLE AND MINI-BICYCLE RACE FOR THE UNDER 15S, A MINI-BICYCLE RACE FOR OLDER CHILDREN, AND A STANDARD BICYCLE RACE.

COMPETITORS WILL BE ASKED TO TREAD A ZIG-ZAG COURSE AND FOR THE MORE EXPERIENCED, RIDE ACROSS A BALANCING SEE-SAW.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 6 -

THIS AND OTHER EVENTS ARE ALL OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. A LEAFLET LISTING IN DETAIL THE EVENTS FOR THE MONTH IS OBTAINABLE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE SPORT SERVICE'S 17 DISTRICT OFFICES. ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE BY TELEPHONE AT THESE OFFICES:

RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HEADQUARTERS	3-030127
HONG KONG (CENTRAL AND WESTERN	5-452758
(SOUTHERN	5-534111 EXT. 10
(EASTERN	5-701570
(WAN CHAI	5-724844
KOWLOON (SHAM SHUI PO	3-860945
WEST (MONG KOK	3-681517
(YAU MA TEI	3-682585
KOWLOON (KWUN TONG	3-436123
EAST (WONG TAI SIN	3-269573
(KOWLOON CITY	3-028500
NEW TERRITORIES	
(YUEN LONG	12-760261 EXT. 42
(TSUEN WAN	12-404361
(ISLANDS	5-451213
(SHA TIN	12-620170
(TAI PO	12-664133
(TUEN MUN	3-030127
(SAI KUNG	3-273177

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

GOVERNMENT ENSURES INJURED WORKERS GET HELP
* * * *

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, TODAY OUTLINED DETAILS OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES INJURED AT WORK GET ASSISTANCE UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

+MANY OF US IN OUR DAY TO DAY LIVES ARE UNAWARE OF THE SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO REALLY NEED ASSISTANCE CAN GET IT,+ HE TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF KWUN TONG AT THE PENINSULA HOTEL.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID IN CLAIMING WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, AN EMPLOYEE INJURED AT WORK WOULD BE ASSISTED BY AT LEAST TWO UNITS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT - THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT AND THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH UNIT.

THE FORMER UNIT, HE SAID, AIMS TO ASSIST INJURED WORKMEN OR DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED WORKMEN TO OBTAIN COMPENSATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THIS UNIT WORKED IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH UNIT STAFFED BY PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

HE ADDED THAT THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT WAS PLANNING TO EXPAND ITS SERVICES WITH MORE BRANCH OFFICES IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

TOUCHING ON ACCIDENT STATISTICS IN KWUN TONG, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN THE TOWNSHIP WITH 3,300 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING OVER 100,000 PEOPLE, HAD TAKEN ITS ANNUAL TOLL. ACCORDING TO LABOUR DEPARTMENT RECORDS THERE WERE OVER 5,000 ACCIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT IN 1976, REPRESENTING 11.4 PER CENT OF THE RATE FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

AND IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 2,500 OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS IN KWUN TONG, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 11 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CASES.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT INFORMATION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS WAS USUALLY OBTAINED FROM REPORTS MADE BY THE EMPLOYERS OR WORKERS, THE POLICE, OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, FACTORY INSPECTORS, HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

A PROPRIETOR, HE POINTED OUT, WAS OBLIGED TO REPORT ANY ACCIDENT ON HIS PREMISES TO A FACTORY INSPECTOR.

IF THE ACCIDENT RESULTED IN DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, THE REPORT MUST BE MADE WITHIN 24 HOURS. IT SHOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED UP WITHIN SEVEN DAYS BY A STATUTORY FORM TO THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT.

IF A WORKER WAS INCAPACITATED FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS AS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT, A REPORT SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 8 -

ACCIDENTS IN ESTABLISHMENTS OTHER THAN 'INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS' MUST ALSO BE REPORTED BY THE EMPLOYER TO THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE ACCIDENT GAVE RISE TO ANY LEGAL LIABILITY TO PAY COMPENSATION.

ALL FATAL ACCIDENTS AT WORK MUST ALSO BE REPORTED WITHIN 24 HOURS TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

AN EMPLOYER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE DISCHARGED THIS OBLIGATION IF HE TELEPHONED '999' ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.

MR. WILLIAMS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, A SUBVENTED HOSPITAL WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MANY LANDMARKS KWUN TONG HAD ACQUIRED SINCE ITS BIRTH IN 1967.

HE SAID IT PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL POPULACE OF KWUN TONG - IN THE TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL INJURIES AND PLAYED A PART IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL HEALTH IN THE AREA.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THE HOSPITAL HAD JUST SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE FREE MEDICAL SERVICES TO WORKERS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EMPLOYERS.

IT WILL LATER TRY TO HELP WORKERS AVOID OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HK JOINS LONDON AIR TALKS
* * * *

MR. NORMAN LATHAM, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, LEFT HONG KONG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR LONDON TO ATTEND AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

REPRESENTING THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, MR. LATHAM WILL JOIN THE BRITISH DELEGATION AT THE TALKS DUE TO START ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 5).

THIS IS A THIRD ROUND OF TALKS REGARDING LUFTHANSA'S AIR SERVICES BETWEEN FRANKFURT AND HONG KONG.

THE LAST ROUND OF DISCUSSION WAS HELD IN FRANKFURT BETWEEN JULY 25 AND JULY 29.

LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES IS OPERATING SIX SCHEDULED FLIGHTS PER WEEK BETWEEN FRANKFURT AND HONG KONG, TWO OF WHICH CONTINUE TO TOKYO.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

EARLY DECISION ON DESALTER SAVED GOVERNMENT MILLIONS

* * * * *

HONG KONG'S DECISION IN 1972 TO BUILD THE DESALTING PLANT AT LOK ON PAI RESULTED IN A SAVING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, A P.W.D. WATERWORKS ENGINEER TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY.

THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER/DESALTING PROJECT OF THE P.W.D.'S WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, MR. Y.N. WU, SAID THE COST OF A SIMILAR DESALTER JUMPED TWO OR THREE TIMES FOLLOWING THE FUEL CRISES OF 1973.

+THE TOTAL COST FOR LOK ON PAI WAS \$480 MILLION, WHICH INCLUDES ABOUT \$360 MILLION FOR PLANT, \$100 MILLION FOR CIVIL WORKS, AND \$20 MILLION FOR MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS INCLUDING FEES FOR CONSULTANTS,+ MR. WU TOLD MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST.

HE SAID THE PROJECT WAS PARTLY FINANCED BY A LOAN OF US\$21.5 MILLION FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

MR. WU WENT ON TO SAY THAT FUEL IS THE BIGGEST SINGLE ITEM IN THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING COST OF THE DESALTER. THE DAILY FUEL BILL FOR EACH OF THE SIX EVAPORATORS IS ABOUT \$68,000.

+OUR DESALTER AT LOK ON PAI IS ONE OF THE BEST DESIGNED AND HENCE MOST EFFICIENT DESALTING PLANTS IN THE WORLD, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING DESALTED WATER AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST WHICH IS CURRENTLY BETWEEN \$12 TO \$13 PER 1,000 GALLONS,+ HE SAID.

DESALTING IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE SOURCE OF WATER IN HONG KONG, MR. WU SAID, BUT THERE ARE FEW OPTIONS.

BECAUSE OF ITS TOPOGRAPHY, HONG KONG HAS LITTLE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE FORM OF LAKES OR RIVERS, AND AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF CATCHWATERS AND IMPOUNDING RESERVOIRS HAS HAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED FOR THE COLLECTION AND STORAGE OF WATER BROUGHT BY THE RAINS IN SUMMER.

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE LACK OF FURTHER LAND FOR CONVERSION INTO RESERVOIRS AND THE NECESSARY CATCHMENTS AREAS, HIGH ISLAND WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST LARGE-SCALE RESERVOIR TO BE BUILT IN HONG KONG, AND THEREAFTER, DEMAND INCREASES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE MET BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS.

HENCE IT WAS DECIDED IN 1971 TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLEMENTING THE WATER SUPPLY FROM THE SEA.

IN ORDER TO TEST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL SEA WATER, AND TO PERMIT MAXIMUM DESIGN ECONOMY OF THE LARGE-SCALE DESALTER, AN EXPERIMENTAL DESALTER WAS PURCHASED AT THE BEGINNING OF 1971 AND OPERATED FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT 20 MONTHS.

A CONTRACT WAS AWARDED IN 1972 FOR THE SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF THE MAIN DESALTING PLANT, WHICH COMPRISES SIX EVAPORATOR UNITS, EACH CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 6.67 MILLION GALLONS OF FRESH WATER A DAY (EQUIVALENT TO 30,300 TONS A DAY), MAKING A TOTAL OF 40 MILLION GALLONS A DAY (OR 181,800 TONS PER DAY).

THE FINAL TWO UNITS OF THE DESALTER WILL COME +ON STREAM+ NEXT MONTH.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 10 -

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSTING PACKETS TO CHINA
* * * * *

THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES TODAY THAT IT HAS RECEIVED NOTICE FROM THE CHINESE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION THAT FROM TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 1) THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL POSTAL PACKETS SENT TO RECIPIENTS IN CHINA:

- * GOODS SENT BY INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE POST SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO GIFTS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FOR PERSONAL USE,
- * EACH POSTAL PACKET CONTAINING ONLY THOSE ITEMS PERMITTED BY THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD NOT EXCEED RMP 20 IN VALUE,
- * NO FAMILY IS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE MORE THAN FOUR PACKETS A YEAR, AND
- * POSTAL PACKETS MUST BEAR A CUSTOMS DECLARATION FORM OR GREEN CUSTOMS LABEL DULY SIGNED BY THE SENDER AND CORRECTLY DECLARING THE NATURE OF THE ITEMS POSTED AND THEIR WEIGHT AND VALUE.

INFORMATION ON PERMITTED ITEMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY POST OFFICE.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/11

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1977

- 11 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
IN WAN CHAI AND AT OCEAN PARK BUS TERMINUS
* * * * *

A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN WAN CHAI FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER, ARE:

- * VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER LUN FAT STREET FROM QUEEN'S ROAD EAST,
- * VEHICLES REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES IN LI CHIT STREET WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE STREET FROM QUEEN'S ROAD EAST,
- * VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER QUEEN'S ROAD EAST FROM LEE TUNG STREET, WITH THE SECTION OF THE STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND JOHNSTON ROAD BECOMING A CUL-DE-SAC OPEN TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO AND FROM JOHNSTON ROAD, AND
- * VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER SPRING GARDEN LANE FROM QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WITH THE SECTION OF THE LANE BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND JOHNSTON ROAD BECOMING A CUL-DE-SAC OPEN TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO AND FROM JOHNSTON ROAD.

MEANWHILE, THE ACCESS ROAD TO THE OCEAN PARK BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND TAXIS WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 2).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AT THESE PLACES TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -