



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1975

## NEW SNORKELS FOR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT \* \* \* \* \*

TWO NEW FIRE ENGINES, FITTED WITH 50-FOOT SNORKELS (ELEVATED HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS), ARE DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH.

THEY ARE THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF AN ORDER FOR TWELVE, COSTING ABOUT \$3.9 MILLION, PLACED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

THE FIRE ENGINES ARE BEING MANUFACTURED BY DENNIS MOTORS, WHO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP GOING BACK SEVERAL DECADES WITH THE FIRE SERVICES IN HONG KONG, AND THE SNORKELS BY SIMON ENGINEERING.

THE REMAINING TEN APPLIANCES ARE TO ARRIVE IN BATCHES OF TWO AT MONTHLY INTERVALS AND, AT THIS RATE, THE ORDER SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER.

POWERED BY EIGHT-CYLINDER 185 BRAKE HORSEPOWER ENGINES, THE VEHICLES ARE EQUIPPED WITH FULLY AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION AND POWER ASSISTED STEERING. THEY CAN SEAT SIX MEN. THE PUMP IS OF 1,000 GALLONS PER MINUTE CAPACITY SUPPLYING WATER TO TWO OUTLETS ON EACH SIDE OF THE APPLIANCE, PLUS ONE FITTED TO THE SNORKEL CAGE. THERE IS ALSO A TANK CONTAINING 250 GALLONS OF WATER FOR USE IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL AT A FIRE SCENE AND 180 FEET OF THREE-QUARTER INCH HOSE IS PROVIDED WITH EACH APPLIANCE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER FEATURES, INCLUDING A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, ELECTRIC WINDSCREEN WASHERS AND WIPERS, TWO TONE HORNS, A MECHANICAL EIGHT-DAY CLOCK AND AN 11-IN. SEARCH-LIGHT.

THE SNORKELS, WHICH ARE HIGHLY VERSATILE PIECES OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, ARE FITTED WITH INTER-COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS BETWEEN CAGE AND BASE, KEEPING FIRE-FIGHTERS AND OPERATORS IN CONSTANT TOUCH.

THE NEW MACHINES WILL REPLACE OLDER APPLIANCES.

LAST YEAR, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK DELIVERY OF 12 NEW FIRE ENGINES, WHICH THEY FITTED WITH 55-FOOT RESCUE LADDERS AND AN 85-FOOT SNORKEL. IN ADDITION TO THE TWELVE 50-FOOT SNORKELS, THERE ARE ALSO ON ORDER A 91-FOOT SNORKEL AND THREE 50-METRE LADDERS FROM WEST GERMANY. THE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCE ELEMENT OF THE 1975/76 FIRE SERVICES BUDGET IS ABOUT 7-1/2 PERCENT OF A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$89,740,000.

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KMB GIVEN GO AHEAD TO BUY 30 MORE LUXURY COACHES  
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED PROPOSALS FOR THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY TO BUY 30 MORE LUXURY COACHES FOR USE ON SOME OF ITS BUSY ORDINARY BUS ROUTES.

THE ENDORSEMENT WAS MADE AT A RECENT TAC MEETING ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT KMB WILL ALSO PLACE ORDERS FOR AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SINGLE-DECKER BUSES AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS ORDINARY BUS SERVICES.

THE PURCHASE OF 30 ADDITIONAL COACHES WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SUCH VEHICLES ACQUIRED BY KMB TO 100. ABOUT HALF OF THE 70 NOW AVAILABLE ARE BEING USED IN THE SIX NEWLY INTRODUCED URBAN EXPRESS COACH SERVICES WHICH INCLUDE TWO ROUTES TO AND FROM KAITAK AIRPORT.

KMB PROPOSED TO USE THE REST TO SUPPLEMENT SOME OF ITS URBAN ORDINARY BUS ROUTES IN ORDER TO EASE THE DEMAND. THESE INCLUDE ROUTE 5 FROM STAR FERRY TO CHOI HUNG ESTATE, PART OF ROUTE 14 FROM JORDAN ROAD FERRY TO KWUN TONG FERRY, ROUTE 6C FROM LAICHIKOK TO KOWLOON CITY FERRY, AND PART OF ROUTE 40 FROM LAICHIKOK TO KWUN TONG.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COACH-TYPE SERVICES WITH NO STANDING PASSENGERS WAS ENDORSED BY TAC IN APRIL LAST YEAR. THIS COMMUTER SERVICE WITH LIMITED STOPPING POINTS PROVIDES A HIGHER STANDARD OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR COMMUTERS AND WILL ENCOURAGE PRIVATE MOTORISTS TO LEAVE THEIR CARS AT HOME, PLUS REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

INITIAL INDICATIONS SHOW THAT THESE COACH SERVICES ARE GENERALLY WELCOMED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ALTHOUGH RESULTS ON ROUTE 200 BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND CENTRAL DISTRICT HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING.

MEANWHILE, THE TAC HAS ALSO ENDORSED PROPOSALS FOR NEW HOVERFERRY SERVICES, BUT WITHIN THE HARBOUR LIMITS AND TO OUTLYING AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE EXPERIMENTAL HOVERFERRY SERVICE ON THE CENTRAL-TSUEN WAN ROUTE HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL AND ADDITIONAL CRAFT ARE ON ORDER.

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WORK TO START SHORTLY ON NEW ESTATE IN CHAI WAN  
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PILING WORK WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH ON A 13-1/2-ACRE SITE IN CHAI WAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

THE ESTATE, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED, WILL BE LOCATED IN CHAI WAN ROAD OPPOSITE TO THE CHAI WAN ESTATE. IT WILL ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 15,400 PEOPLE ON COMPLETION IN 1978.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE FIRST THREE SEVEN-STORY BLOCKS FOR 5,200 PEOPLE WILL START AS SOON AS PILING WORK IS COMPLETED.

THEY WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPATION IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS' TIME.

WORK ON THE FOURTH BLOCK OF THE ESTATE, WHICH WILL BE 22 STOREYS HIGH, WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER. IT WILL HOUSE ABOUT 10,200 PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, THE ESTATE WILL HAVE A FIVE-STORY MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX OF ITS OWN.

IT WILL HOUSE A PUBLIC LIBRARY, A LARGE-SIZE MARKET WITH NEARLY 500 HAWKER STALLS AND 20 COOKED-FOOD STALLS AS WELL AS A CARPARK FOR 500 CARS.

NEARLY FOUR ACRES OF LAND HAS BEEN RESERVED AS OPEN SPACE. IT IS ALSO PLANNED TO PUT SEVERAL CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND REST GARDENS IN THE VICINITY.

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REGISTRATION FACILITIES IN YUEN LONG  
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A MOBILE WORKING TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATION FROM APRIL 9 TO 11 IN THE YUEN LONG KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION OFFICE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

THE TEAM WILL ALSO CONDUCT REGISTRATION AT THE SAME OFFICE FROM APRIL 28 TO MAY 2 AND FROM MAY 12 TO 15.

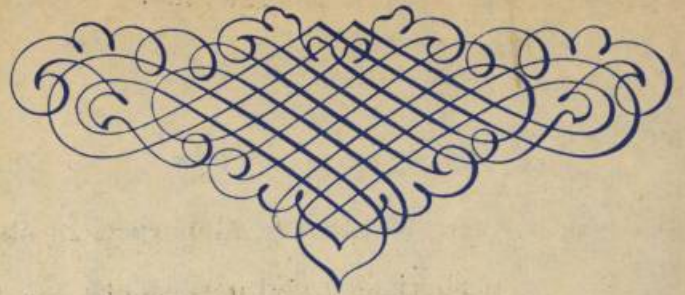
BUSINESS HOURS WILL BE FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 4.30 P.M. ON THESE DATES.

THE VISIT WILL ENABLE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN OR WARDS AT THE AGE OF 11 FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS. HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS SHOULD ALSO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS AT THE AGE OF 18.

RESIDENTS IN THE AREA ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES PROVIDED. THEY ARE ALSO REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND TO REPORT CHANGES OF REGISTERED PARTICULARS.

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# ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Sunday, April 6, 1975

## ROYAL COUPLE TO SEE FLOATING PAGEANT AT ABERDEEN

### Long History Of Port With Fishing

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Aberdeen, always interesting with its picturesque assortment of fishing craft, will take on extra colour on May 6 when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit the harbour to see a water procession organised in their honour by the fishing community.

The occasion coincides with traditional ceremonies to mark the Tin Hau festival, and the harbour will, as usual, be heavily congested with fishing boats that have returned to pay their annual tribute to the goddess of heaven and protectress of seafarers.

The Aberdeen waterway is always gaily decorated at Tin Hau Festival time, but this year will be more flags and pennants than usual because of the historic visit to the harbour by the Royal couple.

The Queen and the Duke will see a parade of various vessels from a special stand on a floating restaurant. Gliding past will be a fleet of fishing boats, junks, and sampans.

From its earliest days, Aberdeen has always had a fishing community. In 1841, a count showed that more than 2,000 residents of Hong Kong Island were fisherfolk living on boats, most moored at Aberdeen. The fishermen followed migratory fish, and then returned to port with their catches.

Today, modern Aberdeen is home for about 1,600 fishing vessels. Of these, 900 are trawlers, 200 liners, 300 netters, 30 seiners, and the remainder small fishing craft. The total catch is 30,000 tons of fish a year.

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Active fishermen in Aberdeen total about 11,000. They have more than 9,000 dependents who are not involved with the industry, though many wives and children help out in a number of ways.

The fishermen sell their catches to wholesale buyers in the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market, one of seven markets maintained by the Fish Marketing Organisation. The market was built in 1952, and is located on the waterfront in Tin Wan. It can handle 90 tons of fish daily.

Two ice plants are located in Tin Wan. Together with others outside Aberdeen, they supply the fishing fleet with ice - essential ingredient for keeping catches in good condition when the vessels are at sea.

The fleet gets its fuel from stationary barges berthed outside the harbour. There are about 100 workshops where engines are repaired. There are also 50 boatyards where the fishermen either have vessels built or made seaworthy. Most of these yards are located in the eastern part of the harbour, the Aberdeen Channel, along the shore of Ap Lei Chau.

In recent years, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department have done much to assist Aberdeen fisherfolk modernise their craft for longer journeys at sea, and improved catches. The department maintains a Fisheries Research Division in the area whose task is to carry out marine and biological research.

The department also keeps a Fisheries Development Section in Aberdeen to look into technical aspects of the fishing industry, and fishings and suggestions are passed on to the fishermen. A government research vessel, Cape St Mary, has its anchorage in the harbour.

The Fish Marketing Organisation runs a school in Aberdeen for children of the fishing community. The school has an enrolment of more than 800, divided into primary, and three-year secondary students. For the latter, emphasis is on practical subjects.