



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 9, 1973

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TOUGH MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT "INEVITABLE"

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Some "drastic measures" to restrict the use of private cars seem inevitable if Hong Kong is to have an efficient transport system, according to the Assistant Commissioner for Transport, Mr. P.F. Leeds.

"Even with an underground railway," he said, "some two-thirds of all the passenger trips will have to be made by surface public transport.

"Therefore, measures will have to be taken to free the roads for buses and trams," he added.

Mr. Leeds was addressing a group of visiting transport experts - the Swiss Transport Museum Group - at the Hong Kong Hotel today.

In his talk, Mr. Leeds reviewed various problems facing Hong Kong over the past 20 years. These included over-population, refugees, resettlement, housing and industrial expansion.

Mr. Leeds said that the influx of refugees led to a large increase in population which, in turn, resulted in a heavy demand for public transport.

"In 1951, the Kowloon Motor Bus Company with 180 buses carried 155.4 million passengers but by 1972 these figures had risen to 1,270 scheduled buses and 501.2 million passengers," he said.

"The corresponding figures for the China Motor Bus Company were, in 1951, 151 buses and 46.1 million passengers and in 1972, 500 scheduled buses and 166.7 million passengers."

/All other .....

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All other transport undertakings, including the Kowloon-Canton Railway and the two major ferry companies, also recorded substantial increases in passenger traffic.

Other factors contributing to the new demands for transport included the rapid expansion of industry and the development of new towns in the New Territories.

To determine the lines along which future traffic patterns were likely to develop, Mr. Leeds said, a Passenger Transport Survey Unit was set up in 1964 with assistance from the British Road Research Laboratory.

"The initial survey report was completed and published in 1966 and it was followed by two other important reports prepared by outside consultants, the Mass Transport Survey and the Long Term Road Study Report in which estimates were given of traffic demand up to 1986," he said.

These reports provided the basis for the current programme of planning and development of Hong Kong's internal communications.

In addition, a new study of future transportation requirements had just started and this would provide the guidance for the next 20 years or so.

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PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

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Note to Editors: Seventy-five Hong Kong residents who were decorated by the Queen for services to the community will receive their insignia from the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, at a presentation ceremony at Government House tomorrow (Wednesday).

The insignia include one K.B.E., one C.M.G., three C.B.E.'s, three O.B.E.'s, one I.S.O. and three M.B.E.'s.

Copies of a list of recipients and citations will be available for collection from the G.I.S. Press Room at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

No press photographer other than those provided with special passes will be admitted to Government House.

Press representatives assigned to cover the ceremony are requested to assemble at the guard room of Government House not later than 11 a.m. G.I.S. officers will be on hand to assist them.

Newspapers not receiving passes will be able to obtain photographs by making arrangements for the supply of prints in the ordinary way with Mainland Studio (Branch), 44, Carnarvon Road, Kowloon, at Tel. 3-671755.

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FINAL PHASE OF LANTAU FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME

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Work will start early next year on the final stage of the Tung Chung River training scheme on Lantau Island to protect lowlying areas from flooding during the wet season.

The project consists of straightening and increasing the carrying capacity of the downstream section of the river.

About 3,200 feet of the existing river bed, of which approximately 900 feet is under the high water mark, will be dredged and realigned with concrete walls on both sides.

It is estimated that the project will cost about \$2.45 million and will take about 15 months to complete.

Three concrete bridges will also be constructed to provide safe and convenient crossing points for villagers living in the area.

The first stage of the river training scheme, which was completed in 1971, involved similar works at the upstream section of the river near Ma Wan Village. It has proved practical and effective in flood control and similar designs will be adopted for the final stage.

The works will be supervised by the Drainage Works Division of the Public Works Department.

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SECOND FERRY PIER PROPOSED FOR KWUN TONG

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Design and investigation work are now in hand for the construction of an additional passenger ferry pier in Kwun Tong.

The proposed new pier is designed to help reduce increasing congestion at the existing Kwun Tong pier which has only two berths.

At present, over 60,000 passengers travel on the three ferry routes operating between Kwun Tong and North Point, Shaukiwan and Central every day.

The new pier is to be built about 280 feet to the east of the existing pier, and will have a covered area of about 4,000 square feet.

Initially, it is envisaged that the pier will have a single berth with mechanically operated lifts and ramps. Provision will be made for future extension to a full-scale, double-berth pier similar to the present Kwun Tong pier.

It is expected that the new pier will be commissioned in 1975.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SECRETARY RETIRING

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Mr. George Oakes, Secretary of the Education Department, is retiring shortly.

He will be presented with a gift from his colleagues. The Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, will make the presentation on Thursday (October 11).

Mr. Oakes was in the Army for seven years from 1939 to 1946 when he served in North Africa and Italy. After leaving the Army he joined the Foreign Service and was attached to the British Embassy in Paris and the British Legation in Budapest for a total period of four years.

In 1950 he took up an appointment in the East African Branch of the former Colonial Office, now known as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

His career in the Executive Grade began in October 1953 when he joined the Western Pacific High Commission, working his way up to Office Superintendent in 1956.

Mr. Oakes was transferred to the Hong Kong Government in November 1961 as an Executive Officer Class I. He was promoted to Senior Executive Officer Class II in 1963, to Senior Executive Officer Class I in 1966 and to his present rank of Chief Executive Officer in 1969.

Before joining the Education Department as Secretary in December 1969, Mr. Oakes served in the Social Welfare Department, the Trade Development Council and the Government Training Division.

/Mr. Oakes, .....

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Mr. Oakes, who is 51, is due to go on seven months pre-retirement leave on October 24.

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Note to Editors:- You are invited to have the presentation ceremony covered. It will be held at 11.30 a.m. on October 11 in the Education Department's Conference Room, Lee Gardens, 3rd floor, Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING IN CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

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The four-storey pre-war building at No. 50 Connaught Road Central was today declared to be in a dangerous condition by the Building Authority.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said this morning the building had been under observation for some time. Despite extensive shoring, he said, movement in the brick walls had occurred causing fractures and giving rise to a risk of failure and collapse. Extensive areas of timber decay had also been detected, he added.

Notice of intention to apply for a closure order was posted on the building today. The application will be heard in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on November 7.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN YAU YAT CHUEN

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New traffic arrangements will be introduced in Yau Yat Chuen as from 10 a.m. on Thursday (October 11) to improve traffic circulation in the district.

A number of roads will be re-routed to one-way traffic under the new arrangements.

They are: Magnolia Road between Marigold Road and Dianthus Road; Marigold Road between Osmanthus Road and Magnolia Road; Cassia Road between Osmanthus Road and Begonia Road; Dianthus Road between Magnolia Road and Tat Chee Avenue; Peony Road between Tat Chee Avenue and Cassia Road; Wistaria Road between Peony Road and Begonia Road; Verbena Road between Peony Road and Begonia Road; and Begonia Road between Cassia Road and Tat Chee Avenue.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.