



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, December 6, 1973

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WORK BEGINS ON DESIGN OF ABERDEEN TUNNEL

Soil Investigation To Be Carried Out Shortly

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A pilot tunnel is to be driven shortly along the line of the proposed Aberdeen Tunnel to investigate the sub-strata properties and to measure the rock behaviour.

This will help to determine the nature and distribution of stresses within the rock so that an economic design of temporary support systems and permanent lining may be produced.

It will also enable prospective contractors for the main work to examine visually the nature of tunnelling conditions involved before submitting tenders.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that the pilot tunnel would be about five feet wide and eight feet high and would be driven into the hillsides from both ends at Happy Valley within the Colonial Cemetery and Wong Chuk Hang.

The work, expected to begin in January next year will take six to nine months to complete.

The spokesman said: "A certain amount of geological investigations, sufficient to determine the optimum general alignment of the tunnel and to prove its feasibility, has been carried out." In the meantime, consulting engineers have begun work on the detailed design of the tunnel.

Construction of the 6,000-foot long twin tube four-lane tunnel is expected to begin in 1975. It will run from a point within the Colonial Cemetery in Happy Valley to the Wong Chuk Hang area near Aberdeen.

/Access from .....

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Access from the north will be by means of a dual two-lane elevated extension to the existing Canal Road flyover, passing along the line of Morrison Hill and Wongneichong Road to the north portal. This will provide rapid and convenient access to Waterfront Road and the Cross-Harbour Tunnel.

In the south, a grade separated interchange will link the tunnel approaches to the existing Wong Chuk Hang Road which will be widened to dual three-lane carriageways.

Provision will also be made for suitable access to future facilities planned for the area such as an oceanarium and to a possible new government stadium.

The tunnel and southern approaches are expected to cost about \$185 million. In addition, the elevated link in the north to the Canal Road flyover will cost some \$70 million. This amount includes funds for considerable ground level improvements to the congested road junctions in the area.

"With the rapid expansion of industrial and housing development at Aberdeen, the need for providing a high capacity road link connecting Aberdeen to the north side of Hong Kong Island is becoming more apparent," the spokesman said.

"The proposed Aberdeen Tunnel will, on completion, not only greatly reduce the travelling time but also help relieve traffic congestion on the narrow and winding Pokfulam Road in the west and Stubbs Road and Repulse Bay Road in the east."

/He pointed .....

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He pointed out that while Aberdeen Tunnel was a long-term answer to the traffic problem between Aberdeen and the urban areas, it would take at least five years to materialise.

To solve the immediate traffic problem, he said, improvements were being carried out in various sections of Pokfulam Road.

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR. PORTER

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Note to Editors: Mr. Roy Porter, the Director of Oil Supplies, will be holding a press conference in the 35 mm Cinema in Beaconsfield House, 5th floor at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Friday (December 7).

Members of the Press, Radio and Television are invited to attend.

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GOVERNOR OPENS NEW HOSPITAL IN KWUN TONG

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Residents of Kwun Tong and New Kowloon will receive the best possible medical facilities at low cost with the opening of the United Christian Hospital and the extension of further medical facilities in the area, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said today.

He was speaking at the official opening of the new hospital which he described as "a good example of what can be achieved when the government and the community work together."

The hospital was built through the joint efforts of its board of directors, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, local and overseas religious and educational organisations, and the government.

It provides 555 beds and will function as an acute general hospital providing a full range of facilities for casualty and emergency cases.

The charges are the same as in government hospitals -- \$2 a day for in-patients and \$1 per visit for out-patients, thus making it possible for government medical institutions to refer patients directly to the United Christian Hospital for admission.

"This means that this hospital will make an immediate contribution to the provision of low-cost medical facilities in the Kwun Tong and East Kowloon areas," the Governor said.

To meet the needs of the 500,000 residents in the area, Sir Murray said, two further clinics had been planned at Lam Tin and Ngau Tau Kok. Site formation work had already started on a polyclinic for East Kowloon in Hammer Hill Road.

"In addition, the Rodrigues Report has recommended that of the four new hospitals which the government should construct over the next ten years, a 1,200-bed general hospital for East Kowloon should be accorded the first priority," he said.

/The following .....

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The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:

Bishop Baker, Mr. Chairman and Directors of the United Christian Hospital, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The United Christian Hospital has been built through the joint efforts of its Board of Directors, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, many local and overseas religious and educational organisations and your Government. It is a good example of what can be achieved when the Government and the community work together.

This hospital, and the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital with which it is closely linked, will be under one organisation, the United Christian Hospitals. This is a charitable organisation which in addition to providing care for the sick, especially for the poor and needy, trains nurses, mid-wives and other medical staff.

The United Christian Hospital, with 555 beds, will function as an acute general hospital and will provide a full range of facilities for casualty and emergency cases. In addition, the charges levied will be the same as those in Government hospitals:- \$2 a day for in-patients and \$1 a visit for out-patients. These arrangements will permit Government medical institutions to refer patients - particularly those in Kwun Tong - directly to the United Christian Hospital for admission. This means that this hospital will make an immediate contribution to the provision of low-cost medical facilities in the Kwun Tong and East Kowloon areas.

/Kwun Tong .....

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Kwun Tong now has a population of half a million, almost double that of seven years ago. To meet the needs of this community, two further clinics have been planned at Lam Tin and Ngau Tau Kok, and site formation work has started on a polyclinic for East Kowloon in Hammer Hill Road. In addition, the Rodrigues Report has recommended that of the four new hospitals which Government should construct over the next ten years, a 1,200-bed general hospital for East Kowloon should be accorded the first priority.

The people of Kwun Tong make a vital contribution to our industry and economy. The opening of this hospital, and the extension of further medical facilities in this area, will ensure that this community receives the best possible medical facilities.

Mr. Lam, Board of Directors, I congratulate you on your zeal and dedication and on a job well done.

I now have great pleasure in declaring open the United Christian Hospital.

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HIGH DEMAND FOR EDUCATION GREEN PAPER

Deadline For Public Comments Extended To January 31

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The government has decided to extend the period for public comments on the Education "Green Paper" to the end of January 1974, a government spokesman announced today.

This follows increasing demand for copies of the Board of Education's Report on the proposed expansion of secondary school education in Hong Kong over the next decade.

Since the Report became available at the end of October, 2,800 copies in English and 10,300 copies in Chinese have been distributed. In addition, some 100,000 copies of a Chinese leaflet containing a summary of the Board's terms of reference and its main recommendations have also been distributed.

The demand has been so great that supplies of the English version were exhausted a fortnight ago and since then many requests have been received.

Fresh supplies of both the English and Chinese versions of the "Green Paper" are now available and can be obtained from City District Offices, Government Information Services and the Education Department.

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STUDENTS URGED TO SUPPORT ANTI-TB SCHOOL CHILDREN'S WARD

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The Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, has appealed to supervisors and heads of schools to urge their students to make voluntary contributions to support the "School Children's Ward" in the Ruttonjee Sanatorium.

This ward of ten cots is the only one of its kind in Hong Kong.

School donations enable the children in this ward to receive medical care and attention which might otherwise not be available to them.

In a circular to schools, Mr. Canning said individual contributions should be limited to 50 cents and must be entirely voluntary.

"I sincerely hope that schools will continue to maintain this ward by individual and collective efforts," he said.

Schools may consider various other ways and means of raising money to support this praiseworthy cause.

Last year, schools contributed about \$187,600, a sum which Mr. Canning described as "a splendid achievement and a credit to all concerned."

School contributions, preferably by crossed cheques payable to the Anti-Tuberculosis and Thoracic Diseases Association, should be sent in envelopes marked "Anti-TB" to the Education Department Headquarters, Lee Gardens, 3rd floor, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

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EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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The Census and Statistics Department is conducting a comprehensive postal survey on employment and job vacancies in the local manufacturing industry.

Some 30,000 establishments have been sent printed enquiry cards which should be fully completed and returned in the pre-paid envelopes provided by Sunday, December 9.

Information sought by the department includes the number of employees, classified by sex, and the number of vacancies as at December 4.

The survey is an extension of previous quarterly employment surveys on industrial establishments registered with the Labour Department, and covers all known manufacturing establishments.

A comprehensive register of them has been compiled by matching and combining factory records of the Labour Department with field reticulation records of the Census and Statistics Department.

Commenting on the survey, the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr. D.S. Whitelegge, said: "The manufacturing industry is the largest employer of Hong Kong's work force and in view of its importance a full coverage of employment in this sector is essential."

He appealed to all recipients of the enquiry cards to co-operate by filling them in correctly and returning them promptly to his department.

"Manufacturers may rest assured that information provided will be treated in strict confidence and only statistical summaries will be released," he said.

The cards would be destroyed, he added, after the relevant information had been extracted and summarised.

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APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS

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Note to Editors: The Kowloon Motor Bus Company is to sign apprenticeship contracts with 65 craft apprentices and 17 technician apprentices on Saturday (December 8) at 10.00 a.m. at its administration office at No. 1, Po Lun Street, Lai Chi Kok.

Present at the occasion will be Mr. Ronald Louey, General Manager of KMB and Mr. H.R. Knight, Senior Training Officer of the Labour Department.

You are invited to send a reporter/photographer to cover the occasion.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Thursday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien - old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Scarce	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	No Sale
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	-	No Sale

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.0	2.5	3.2
Big-Eyes	Normal	2.5	0.7	1.8
Squid	Limited	5.5	2.0	4.0
Hair-Tails	Good	1.4	0.7	1.0
Lizard Fishes	Limited	2.5	1.0	1.8
Croakers	Limited	1.5	0.7	1.3
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.9	1.8	2.2
Melon Coat	Limited	1.8	1.4	1.6
Breams	Limited	5.0	3.0	3.5
Yellow Belly	Limited	1.6	0.8	1.2
Mackerels	Good	3.0	2.0	2.5
Red Goat Fish	Normal	2.7	0.5	1.7
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.3	0.7	0.9
Horse-Head	Normal	5.2	3.8	4.0
Melon Seed	Limited	2.8	1.3	2.0
Pomfrets	Limited	8.0	7.0	7.5
Garoupas	Normal	8.0	5.5	6.3
Yellow Croaker	Good	5.0	3.8	4.2

/Supplies and .....

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of  
Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.0	0.8	1.5
White cabbage	Normal	0.5	0.15	0.3
Chinese lettuce	Normal	0.5	0.2	0.35
Chinese kale	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.6
Spring onion	Normal	1.5	0.5	1.0
Spinach	Normal	1.4	0.7	1.0
Water cress	Normal	1.2	0.3	0.7
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Scarce	2.2	1.4	1.8

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	285

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.