



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1977

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WORK ON ABERDEEN TUNNEL BEGINS

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WORK BEGAN TODAY ON ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS EVER AWARDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT — THE MASSIVE \$280 MILLION ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

THE TWIN-TUBE TUNNEL — THE FIRST TO BE DRIVEN ON HONG KONG ISLAND — WILL RUN NEARLY TWO KILOMETRES THROUGH THE HEART OF MIDDLE GAP BETWEEN THE 426-METRE PEAKS OF MOUNT CAMERON AND MOUNT NICHOLSON TO PROVIDE A THREE-MINUTE EXPRESS LINK BETWEEN HAPPY VALLEY AND ABERDEEN.

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE P.W.D.'S PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR. GORDON SAPSTEAD, AT THE OFFICIAL SIGNING OF THE MAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH SOME \$184 MILLION, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ABERDEEN TUNNEL JOINT VENTURE — A NEWLY FORMED CONSORTIUM OF FOUR FIRMS REPRESENTING FRANCE, HONG KONG, SWEDEN AND WEST GERMANY.

THEY ARE SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'ENTERPRISES DE DRAGAGES ET DE TRAVAUX PUBLICS, GAMMON (H.K.) LTD., SVENSKA ENTREPENAD AB SENTAB, AND HOCHTIEF A.G. FUR HOCH UND TIEFBAUTEN.

MR. SAPSTEAD SAID THE TUNNELLING WORKS WOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE AND A HALF YEARS AND IT WAS EXPECTED TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC BY THE END OF 1980.

+THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WILL FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF A MAJOR TRUNK ROUTE, WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY LINK UP WITH TUEN MUN ROAD AND TSUEN WAN BY-PASS, AND SHOULD ENABLE MOTORISTS TO DRIVE FROM TUEN MUN TO ABERDEEN IN JUST ABOUT 40 MINUTES,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS AN EXCITING AND HIGHLY CHALLENGING VENTURE,+ HE ADDED, +AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IT HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE HANDS OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST TUNNEL ENGINEERS.

+THE PROJECT IS MADE ALL THE MORE DRAMATIC BY THE FACT THAT INSTEAD OF CONTRACTING FOR ONE DUAL-LANE TUBE AND THEN EXTENDING TO TWO TUNNELS LATER, AS WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, WE HAVE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE ENTIRE TWIN-TUBE PROJECT.+

WITH EACH TUNNEL BUILT TO COPE WITH A TRAFFIC FLOW OF SOME 2,400 VEHICLES AN HOUR, THE PROJECT WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE A SPEEDY NORTH-SOUTH ACCESS THROUGH THE HEART OF HONG KONG ISLAND, BUT SHOULD ALSO ABSORB ALL THE TRAFFIC GENERATED ON THE ISLAND'S RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SOUTH SIDE, HE SAID.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TWIN TUNNELS, WORK IS PROCEEDING ON AN INTERCHANGE SYSTEM AT WONG CHUK HANG OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL'S SOUTHERN PORTAL, ALONG WITH A \$85 MILLION EXTENSION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER AT THE NORTHERN HAPPY VALLEY END.

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+WITH THE BURGEONING GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT ABERDEEN, THE NEED FOR A HIGH CAPACITY ROAD LINK CONNECTING ABERDEEN TO THE NORTH SIDE OF HONG KONG HAS LONG BEEN A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY,+ MR. SAPSTEAD SAID.

+THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WILL, UPON COMPLETION, NOT ONLY REDUCE THE TRAVELLING TIME BUT ALSO HELP RELIEVE THE LONGSTANDING TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON THE NARROW AND WINDING POKFULAM ROAD IN THE WEST AND STUBBS ROAD AND REPULSE BAY ROAD IN THE EAST.+

THE TWIN-TUBE SYSTEM WILL DRIVE 1,900 METRES THROUGH MOUNT NICHOLSON FROM A POINT WITHIN THE COLONIAL CEMETERY IN HAPPY VALLEY. ACCESS FROM THE NORTH WILL BE VIA THE DUAL-LANE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER EXTENSION AND WILL PASS ALONG THE LINE OF MORRISON HILL ROAD AND WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD TO THE TUNNEL'S NORTHERN PORTAL.

IN THE SOUTH, A GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGE WILL BE BUILT AT WONG CHUK HANG TO LINK THE TUNNEL WITH WONG CHUK HANG ROAD AND FEED TRAFFIC DIRECTLY TO ABERDEEN AND REPULSE BAY.

P.W.D. ENGINEERS ESTIMATE THAT IT WOULD TAKE ONLY THREE MINUTES THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO TRAVEL FROM ONE SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND TO THE OTHER.

WHEN THE CONSORTIUM START THE ACTUAL TUNNELLING, THEY WILL BE GUIDED BY THE PILOT TUNNEL ALREADY DRIVEN ALONG THE ALIGNMENT OF THE MAIN TUNNEL ALMOST FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS ENGINEERS OF MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE P.W.D. HAVE BEEN DRILLING AND BLASTING A \$5.6 MILLION PILOT TUNNEL THROUGH MOUNT NICHOLSON TO DETERMINE WHETHER ROCK AND SOIL CONDITIONS DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN WOULD BE SUITABLE TO BUILD A TUNNEL HIGHWAY.

MR. SAPSTEAD SAID THAT MOST OF THE WALLS OF THE TWIN TUBES WOULD BE LINED WITH CONCRETE 600 MM THICK -- THE SAME THICKNESS OF THE LINING IN LION ROCK TUNNEL. IN SOME PARTS THE LINING WOULD BE INCREASED TO 800MM, AND STEEL ARCH RIBS INSTALLED AS AN ADDED SUPPORT.

EXCAVATION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY DRILLING WITH PNEUMATIC JACKHAMMERS AND BLASTING, WITH THE WORKS PROGRAMME CALLING FOR TWO +BLAST+ PER DAY.

MR. SAPSTEAD SAID THE CONSORTIUM WOULD BE TAKING SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS WITH ITS EXPLOSIVES -- USING A LARGE NUMBER OF DELAY DETONATORS TO REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES SET OFF IN EACH BLAST.

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OVER 280,000 BENEFIT FROM YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME
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A SCHEME WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES OF REALISING PROJECTS WHICH THEY HAVE DRAWN UP TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY HAS BENEFITED MORE THAN 280,000 PEOPLE SINCE ITS FIRST INTRODUCTION IN LATE 1974.

ENTITLED THE YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME, IT IS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT THROUGH ITS COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS.

MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (OPERATION), SAID SO FAR 249 PROJECTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED UNDER THE SCHEME IN WHICH OVER 6,800 VOLUNTEERS WERE INVOLVED.

ANY YOUTH GROUP RECOGNISED BY A SCHOOL, A YOUTH AGENCY OR AN INSTITUTION CAN SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS FOR PRELIMINARY SCREENING BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER AND THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT. THE SCHEME IS ALSO OPEN TO GROUPS WHICH ARE NOT YET RECOGNISED BY SCHOOLS OR AGENCIES PROVIDED THEY HAVE THE APPROVAL OF C.Y.O.

ALL THE PROPOSED PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER AND THE LOCAL SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL THEN GO THROUGH ANOTHER SELECTION COMMITTEE IN THE S.W.D. HEADQUARTERS.

MR. LAM EXPLAINED THAT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSALS WAS BASED ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY BENEFITS, INNOVATION, FEASIBILITY AND OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES.

EACH SUPPORTED PROJECT IS ENTITLED TO A GRANT OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,000. BEFORE THE PROJECT STARTS THE GROUP WILL BE ALLOCATED HALF OF THE SUM= THE BALANCE WILL BE PAID WHEN THE PROJECT IS HALF WAY THROUGH AND ON SUBMISSION OF AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE C.Y.O.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT, THE VOLUNTEERS MAY SEEK ADVICE FROM LOCAL CIVIC ORGANISATIONS OR THE C.Y.O., BUT THEY MUST CARRY OUT THE PROJECT THEMSELVES.

MR. LAM POINTED OUT THAT THROUGH THIS PROCESS, YOUNG PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE CHANNELLED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

+FURTHERMORE, THEY WILL DEVELOP THE SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND LEARN TO COOPERATE WITH OTHERS,+ HE ADDED.

NORMALLY, A PROJECT IS REQUIRED TO BE FINISHED BETWEEN THREE AND SIX MONTHS AT THE END OF WHICH AN EVALUATION REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP TO THE C.Y.O. TOGETHER WITH ALL RECEIPTS, A FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL EXPENDITURE, MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

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AMONG THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS ARE SERVICES FOR BOAT PEOPLE, PUBLICATIONS AND FILM PRODUCTION, COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME, CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN RURAL AREAS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

MR. LAM SAID THAT VERY OFTEN A PROJECT WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE AFTER THE INITIAL SPONSORSHIP BY THE S.W.D. BECAUSE A LOCAL CIVIC ORGANISATION OR AN INSTITUTION REALISING THE VALUE OF THE PROJECT MIGHT DECIDE TO TAKE UP SPONSORSHIP.

ONE SUCH SCHEME WAS THE 'FEMALE FACTORY WORKERS' PROJECT' LAUNCHED IN THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

THIS PROJECT AIMS TO PROVIDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ORGANISED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING TALKS, INDOOR-OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES FOR FACTORY GIRLS. THE EMPHASIS IS ON HELPING THEM TO ORGANISE THEMSELVES AND TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTHY GROUP LIFE. MANY OF THE YOUTHS ORGANISING SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE FACTORY WORKERS.

MR. LAM SAID THE PROJECT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT HAD NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO SEVEN FACTORIES IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE SIR ROBERT HO-TUNG CHARITABLE FUND.

MEANWHILE, APPLICATIONS FOR THE SIXTH ROUND OF THE SCHEME HAVE BEEN CLOSED.

MR. LAM STRESSED THAT APPLICATIONS WHICH WERE TURNED DOWN MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY UNWORTHINESS, ADDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD TO BE VERY SELECTIVE BECAUSE ONLY \$100,000 WAS SET ASIDE FOR THE SCHEME EACH YEAR.

HE HOPED THAT CIVIC ORGANISATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS WOULD HELP THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN TO CARRY OUT THEIR PROJECTS AND IF POSSIBLE, CONTINUE TO SPONSOR THE TRULY WORTHWHILE PROJECTS.

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DEVELOPMENT OF TAI O

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL START THE FIRST STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI O ON LANTAU ISLAND AS A RURAL TOWNSHIP THIS MONTH WITH THE COMMENCEMENT OF A LAND FORMATION PROGRAMME ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE EXISTING VILLAGE.

THE DEVELOPMENT IS PART OF AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE BETTER HOMES AND FACILITIES FOR NEARLY 350,000 PEOPLE IN THE RURAL AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ON OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THE P.W.D.'S ACTING GOVERNMENT ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR. KENNETH KWOK, SAID TODAY THAT +AS WITH THE NEW TOWNS, THE AIM IN THE RURAL AREAS IS TO PROVIDE BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WITH ALL THE BASIC FACILITIES AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES, ONLY ON A SMALLER SCALE.+

+THIS MEANS THE PROVISION OF SCHOOLS AND CLINICS, COMMUNITY HALLS AND SHOPPING CENTRES AS WELL AS HOUSING.+

THE P.W.D.'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS CO-ORDINATING THE PROGRAMME, TODAY LET A \$3.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR SITE FORMATION, ROADS AND DRAINAGE IN TAI O TO WING FAI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

MR. KWOK SAID THE WORKS INVOLVE THE FORMATION OF ABOUT SIX HECTARES OF LAND, CONSTRUCTION OF HALF A KILOMETRE OF ROAD, AND ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES OF STORMWATER AND FOUL WATER DRAINS.

+FILL MATERIAL WILL BE USED TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF WATERLOGGED LOW-LYING LAND AROUND THE EXISTING VILLAGE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TAI O CREEK.+

+SITES WILL BE PROVIDED ON ABOUT HALF THE AREA FOR VILLAGE AND RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING TO REHOUSE 3,000 PEOPLE NOW LIVING IN SUB-STANDARD ACCOMMODATION IN TAI O,+ MR. KWOK SAID.

+THE REST OF THE AREA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WORKSHOPS, A VILLAGE HALL, KINDERGARTEN, MARKET, POLICE POST AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.+

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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GREATER DEMAND FOR HOMES FOR THE AGED
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THERE IS A GREATER DEMAND NOW IN HONG KONG FOR MORE HOMES FOR THE AGED AS PEOPLE NO LONGER FAVOUR THE IDEA OF LARGE FAMILIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE TODAY AT THE FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE HOME FOR THE AGED OF THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

MR. LEE COMMENDED THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOK SIN TONG FOR THEIR CONCERTED EFFORTS AND ENTHUSIASM TO SERVE THE ELDERLY OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE NINE-STOREY HOME, WHEN COMPLETED IN 15 MONTHS' TIME, WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 232 OLD PEOPLE, 84 OF WHOM NEED SPECIAL CARE AND ATTENTION.

TO ASSIST THE LOK SIN TONG IN THIS PROJECT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO MEET PART OF THE BUILDING COST.

MR. LEE SAID THAT HIS STAFF WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO HELP IF FURTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WAS NEEDED.

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