



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1978

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LION ROCK TUNNEL CARRIES RECORD TRAFFIC

A RECORD 6.36 MILLION VEHICLES USED THE LION ROCK TUNNEL LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 1,176,000 VEHICLES OR NEARLY 23 PER CENT COMPARED WITH FIGURES FOR 1976, AND BROUGHT THE OVERALL TOTAL SINCE THE OPENING OF THE TUNNEL 10 YEARS AGO TO 40.1 MILLION VEHICLES.

PRIVATE CARS MADE UP ABOUT 66 PER CENT OF THE TRAFFIC WHILST HEAVY AND MEDIUM VEHICLES REPRESENTED 19 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE RECORD TRAFFIC VOLUME OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS RESULTED FROM THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENTS AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE INTRODUCTION OF FIVE NEW TERRITORIES BUS ROUTES THROUGH THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE HEAVY TRAFFIC. BUS TRIPS IN 1977 REACHED A NEW PEAK OF 33,770, ABOUT 18 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE STATISTICS ALSO REVEALED THAT THE HIGHEST DAILY TUNNEL TRAFFIC EVER RECORDED AT LION ROCK WAS 23,731 VEHICLES. IT WAS ACHIEVED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1977. THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS 22,480 VEHICLES.

1977 WAS ALSO A BUSY YEAR FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL. A TOTAL OF 21,870,331 VEHICLES USED THE TUNNEL, AN INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE ABERDEEN AND AIRPORT TUNNELS -- BOTH ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1980 -- IS PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE.

THE 1.8 KILOMETRE-LONG ABERDEEN TOLL TUNNEL -- WHICH WILL FORM PART OF ROUTE 1 CONNECTING THE DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL-CUM-RESIDENTIAL AREA OF ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU WITH THE NORTHERN SHORES OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND THEN, THROUGH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO THE MAINLAND -- WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1980.

IT WILL HAVE TWIN TUNNELS, EACH WITH TWO LANES OF SINGLE DIRECTIONAL TRAFFIC. THE TOLL PLAZA AND TUNNEL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WILL BE AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE TUBES WHERE SITE FORMATION WORK IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY.

THE AIRPORT TUNNEL LYING ON ROUTE 3 CURVES UNDER THE RUNWAY OF KAI TAK AIRPORT AND WILL PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO AND FROM KWUN TONG.

/THE 1.3 KILOMETRE-LONG ..

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THE 1.3 KILOMETRE-LONG TUNNEL WILL PROVIDE FOUR LANES FOR TRAFFIC IN EARLY 1980.

ALTHOUGH NO TOLLS WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE USE OF THIS TUNNEL, IT WILL BE EQUIPPED AND STAFFED TO PROVIDE THE FULL RANGE OF TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE, CONTROL AND RECOVERY SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OTHER TUNNELS.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE TWO TUNNELS WILL COME UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE NEW TUNNEL MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

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THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR TSUEN WAN ON THE WAY
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THREE GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE TO BE BUILT SHORTLY IN TSUEN WAN TO COPE WITH THE NEED RESULTING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

THEY ARE SHEK YAM, LEI MUK SHUE AND TAI PA STREET SCHOOLS.

THESE THREE SCHOOLS, RANGING FROM 5,685 SQUARE METRES TO 6,100 SQUARE METRES IN SIZE, FORM PART OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

MR. PATRICK LEE, P.W.D.'S SENIOR ARCHITECT, SAID THAT WORK ON THE SCHOOLS WOULD BEGIN IN MAY AND JUNE RESPECTIVELY AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE THREE SCHOOLS WILL BE IDENTICAL IN DESIGN.

+THE MAIN TEACHING BLOCK COMPRISES 24 CLASSROOMS ON THE UPPER FLOORS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND CHANGING ROOMS ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHICH ALSO HOUSES AN ASSEMBLY HALL WITH COVERED PLAY AREA,+ MR. LEE SAID.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS, PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, A LIBRARY AND WORKSHOPS.

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ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO START SOON

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MR. ARTHUR BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), HAS APPEALED TO TEACHERS TO HELP PROMOTE AMONG STUDENTS THE ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WHICH IS DUE TO START NEXT MONTH.

THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION WILL BE LAUNCHING THE CAMPAIGN IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EDUCATION, TRANSPORT, AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS.

IN A SCHOOL CIRCULAR, MR. BROWN ASKED ALL TEACHERS, PARTICULARLY OF THE ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL STUDIES, TO EXTEND THEIR SUPPORT AND EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY IN USING THE ROADS.

HE STRESSED THAT PUPILS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED NOT TO BOARD OVERCROWDED BUSES, BUT TO QUEUE UP IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AT BUS-STOPS, NOT TO STEP OUT INTO THE ROAD WHILE WAITING FOR BUSES, AND TO OBSERVE THE CODE FOR CROSSING THE ROAD.

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DEMAND FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION GROWING

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THE GOVERNMENT SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION UNIT WILL SOON EXTEND ITS SERVICE TO COVER THE MEETINGS OF NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS.

ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF INTERPRETER OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT'S COUNCILS BRANCH, MR. Y.P. CHENG, SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WAS FIRST INTRODUCED AT THE PREDECESSOR OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN RECREATION AND AMENITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE 1976.

IT WILL ~~BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE MEETINGS OF THE OTHER NT DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS.~~

THE EXTENSION OF ITS SERVICE TO THE ~~NEW TERRITORIES HAS BROUGHT ABOUT GREATER DEMANDS ON THE UNIT.~~ MR. CHENG SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, TO MEET THE INCREASING NEED OF THE SERVICE BY VARIOUS OTHER COMMITTEE AND BOARDS IN THE URBAN AREAS, A NEW SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION BOOTH IS BEING BUILT AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. IT WILL BE OPERATIONAL VERY SOON.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED RECRUITING MORE INTERPRETERS TO JOIN THE UNIT,+ MR. CHENG ADDED.

THE UNIT WAS FORMED IN 1972 FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR KENNETH P.F. FUNG. IT NOW HAS SEVEN INTERPRETERS, OF THESE FOUR ARE ON PART-TIME BASIS.

/+SIMULTANEOUS

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+SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE,+ MR. CHENG SAID.

+ONE OF THE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IS THAT IT CAN ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE WITH SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO JOIN THE VARIOUS STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODIES SO THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.

+BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICE, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE LANGUAGE BARRIER,+ MR. CHENG ADDED.

ON TO THE PROFESSION ITSELF, MR. CHENG DESCRIBED THE JOB OF A SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER AS +DEMANDING AS WELL AS CHALLENGING+.

+IN ADDITION TO THE FLUENCY IN BOTH LANGUAGES, A SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER HAS TO BE QUICK-WITTED AND SHARP-MINDED DURING THE MEETINGS WHEN HE HAS ONLY A SPLIT SECOND TO THINK.+

+HE ALSO HAS TO KNOW SOMETHING OF EVERYTHING, FOR HE MAY OFTEN COME ACROSS TALKS ON HIGHLY-SPECIALISED SUBJECTS.

+IT IS SAID, WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK, NO DOUBT, THAT A SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETER SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN A HEART-TRANSPLANT, ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT ABLE TO PERFORM ONE,+ HE ADDED.

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PRINTING DEPARTMENT COPING WITH INCREASED WORKLOAD
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THE WORKLOAD OF THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT HAS DOUBLED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND THE PAPER TONNAGE USED ALSO INCREASED BY THE SAME RATE IN TEN YEARS, MR. DENNIS RICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SAID TODAY.

AT THE MOMENT, HE ADDED, STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE NOW WORKING FULL SWING TO COPE WITH THE WORKLOAD IN ITS BUSIEST PERIOD OF THE YEAR.

MR. RICK SAID: +BETWEEN DECEMBER AND MAY EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO PRINT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING THE BUDGET SPEECH BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND ITS SUPPORTING STATEMENTS, THE HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT, DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF PUBLIC EXAMINATION PAPERS.

+THIS YEAR WE PRINTED 42,000 COPIES OF THE HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT, AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN THE ENGLISH EDITION AND 30 PER CENT IN THE CHINESE EDITION COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR.

+THE VOLUME OF PUBLIC EXAMINATION PAPERS FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR WILL INCREASE BY 12 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

THE MAJOR INCREASE IS IN OFF-SET COLOUR PRINTING.

MR. RICK SAID: +DURING LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER OF COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES WE PROCESSED FOR PRINTING DOUBLED THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.+

HE STRESSED THAT THE QUALITY OF HIS DEPARTMENT'S OUTPUT HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE INCREASING WORKLOAD.

+WE STRIVE TO PRESERVE THE STANDARD AND TO GIVE OUR CUSTOMERS THE BEST SERVICES WE CAN. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE QUALITY OF OUR PUBLICATIONS WHICH HAS EARNED FAVOURABLE COMMENTS IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG,+ MR. RICK SAID.

MR. RICK REVEALED THAT A PLAN TO MOVE THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT TO A NEW SITE WITH BIGGER ACCOMMODATION IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD, AND A SITE CLOSE TO THE EXISTING PLANT IN NORTH POINT IS BEING CONSIDERED.

HE SAID: +THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPUTERISING THE TYPE COMPOSITION FACILITIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.+

MR. RICK SAID IT WAS SIMPLER TO OPERATE PHOTO TYPE-SETTING WITH A COMPUTER WHICH HAD AN ENORMOUS STORAGE CAPACITY FOR ALL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

+WE CAN UPDATE ANY INFORMATION EASILY AND QUICKLY TO ENABLE US TO PRODUCE PUBLICATIONS IN A VERY SHORT TIME.+

HE SAID THAT COMPUTERISATION OF CHINESE CHARACTERS COMPOSITION WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE MARKET COULD PROVIDE SUCH ADVANCED EQUIPMENT.