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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, November 13, 1972

BRITISH GOVERNMENT GIVES £500,000 TO POLYTECHNIC

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A grant of £500,000 (HK$6.6 million) is to be made available by the British Government to assist in the development of the Hong Kong Polytechnic.

This was announced today by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affiars, Mr. Anthony Royle, who is on a five day visit to Hong Kong.

He said the money is in addition to a further £400,000 (HK$5.3 million) which his government has made available to help finance the construction of the new technical institutes, including £100,000 (HK$1.3 million) for the Morrison Hill Institute.

Mr. Royle said the overall amount, totalling nearly £1 million (HK$13.3 million), indicated the importance the British Government attached to the development of technical education and to the contribution it can make to industrial and social progress in Hong Kong.

"Details of how the £500,000 will be spent will be worked out with the Board of the Polytechnic," he said.

Commenting on the announcement the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said he was "delighted" by the response of the British Government and thanked Mr. Royle for his efforts in making the grant possible.

/"It clearly .....

"It clearly illustrates the interest and support being shown by Britain for this vitally important subject," he added.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Polytechnic, Dr. S.Y. Chung, welcomed the "generous grant" and said "this will help us educate our technical manpower, so greatly needed by our industries.

"At this stage of the development of Hong Kong industry we need all the help we can get in promoting high level technical education," he added.

Dr. Chung expressed the hope that more industrialists might also contribute to this important project.

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NEW APPOINTMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS

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A leading Hong Kong social worker, Mrs. Mary Wong Wing-cheung, has been appointed to the Legislative Council to fill an existing vacancy for an Unofficial Member with effect from tomorrow until June 30, 1974.

Mr. D.H. Jordan, Director of Commerce and Industry, has also been appointed to the Council for the same period to fill a vacancy for an Official Member.

The Government also announced the appointment of Mr. Li Fook-kow, Director of Social Welfare, Designate as an Official Member of the Legislative Council with effect from November 16 to June 30, 1974, and Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, as an Official Member of the Executive Council for the same period. Mr. Li is to succeed Mr. G.T. Rowe as Director on November 16.

The appointments of Mrs. Wong and Mr. Jordan are to fill the remaining two additional seats in the Council - one Unofficial and one Official - provided by the Hong Kong Additional Instructions 1972, which were approved by the Queen on June 28 this year and published in the gazette on July 14.

Mrs. Wong is now the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. She is also the Chairman of the Heep Hong Club for Handicapped Children.

She was born in Hong Kong, and received her early education at St. Paul's Convent School, and later at the Hong Kong University.

She was awarded the M.B.E. in 1946 and became Justice of the Peace in July this year. She is also associated with a number of other voluntary agencies.

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RESEARCH ON TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

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A member of the scientific staff of Britain's Medical Research Council is convinced, after a recent official visit to Hong Kong, that the tubercle bacillus, the germ responsible for tuberculosis, will be controlled, and the disease progressively eliminated.

He is Dr. David Girling, of the Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases Unit of Brompton Hospital, London.

He left last Saturday (November 11) after a two-week visit in connection with controlled clinical trials on the treatment of tuberculosis in various types of patients that the MRC is carrying out with the Medical and Health Department, the Grantham Hospital, the Ruttonjee Sanatorium, and the Haven of Hope Sanatorium.

While in Hong Kong, he had discussions with Dr. G.H. Choa, the Director of Medical and Health Services; Dr. J.K. Craig, the Deputy Director; Dr. W.G.L. Allan, Specialist in charge of Tuberculosis and the Chest Service; and other officers.

He visited the seven government chest clinics in Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei, Wanchai, Shau Kei Wan, Sai Ying Pun and Kwai Chung.

/He made a point .....

He made a point of calling on a number of TB patients in their own homes, toured the Wong Tai Sin Infirmary, called at the Ruttonjee Sanatorium, and inspected the facilities in the New Territories.

"The reasons for my visit have been to discuss with the doctors concerned the progress and interim results of the Hong Kong studies," Dr. Girling said.

"It was felt that I could perhaps help to try and sort out any problems that have arisen, to discuss the lines along which future studies might develop, and through informal lectures and discussions, consider recent advances in the treatment of tuberculosis, both in Hong Kong and elsewhere."

He felt that Hong Kong clearly had its problems, but they were being dealt with "efficiently and with good humour."

He described tuberculosis as "undoubtedly a major problem."

"I have been very impressed, during my visit, with the high standard of treatment and patient supervision which is being achieved in the various hospitals and clinics I have visited," he commented.

"I am sure that one day, the tubercle bacillus will suffer the same dreadful fate in Hong Kong as the odious Lap Sap Chung."

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TRAINING SCHEME FOR PRINTING INDUSTRY

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The Labour Department and the local leading printing firms are joining forces to improve the training and provision of manpower at the craftsman and technician levels in the printing industry.

The firms are starting an apprenticeship training scheme and the department is giving them every possible assistance in overcoming any operational difficulties.

The Printing Industrial Committee of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the department and the Hong Kong Printers Association, will shortly call a second meeting to discuss such difficulties.

Mr. Alex Wu, chairman of the P.I.C., today called on all printing firms to attend and be prepared to bring up their problems for discussion at the meeting.

In a first meeting held recently, he said, the Senior Training Officer (Apprenticeship) of the department outlined a proposed apprenticeship training scheme for the various sectors of the printing industry.

He said one of its main features is the award of a certificate to apprentices who have completed training, thus giving the industry a yardstick of competency.

"Ever since the meeting, a number of printing firms have either started or re-organised their training along the lines of the proposed scheme," he said.

/Mr. Wu said .....

Mr. Wu said his committee had conducted a manpower survey and later published a report in 1971, in which it was recommended to the Government that technical education facilities in printing be urgently provided. The report also recommended that industry should set up a training scheme.

"Government has accepted this recommendation and a printing department will be set up in the new technical institute in Kwun Tong which is expected to be operational by 1975.

"The primary purpose of the department will be to run courses for apprentices in the printing industry," he said.

Mr. Wu said that in view of the time gap between now and 1975, his committee had recently further recommended the establishment of a teaching workshop to be administered by the Morrison Hill Technical Institute in temporary premises. This recommendation was receiving urgent consideration by the Government, he added.

The 1971 report, he said, described the training in the industry as "limited, out-dated, haphazard and of low standard", and showed that the annual additional need of craftsmen and technicians at the time of the survey and in the immediate future was no less than 1,125 and 125 respectively.

According to that survey, the trades where the shortage of manpower was most acute included hand compositors, letterpress and litho-offset pressmen, bench workers and book-binders.

Mr. Wu stressed the importance for printing industrialists to seriously consider playing their role in the training of skilled manpower to meet the needs of the industry.

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FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LION ROCK TUNNEL

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Traffic through the Lion Rock Tunnel has more than doubled since its opening five years ago from a daily average of 5,596 in 1967 to 11,200 so far this year.

On days with particularly heavy traffic, over 20,000 vehicles travelling between Kowloon and Sha Tin pass through this mile-long tunnel which operates on a round-the-clock basis.

With the development of the Sha Tin valley and the projected new race course at Sha Tin, it is estimated that traffic will rise to a daily average of 25,000 vehicles by 1977.

Mr. F.W. May, who has been Superintendent of the Lion Rock Tunnel since its opening, said that the main operational problem was "the rapid turnover in staff which resulted in many of the Tunnel Control Officers working long hours of overtime."

The officers are responsible for detecting and preventing speeding offences and overtaking inside the tunnel.

Mr. May added that due to construction work for a flyover at the junction of Waterloo Road and Lung Cheung Road, there was also a problem of temporary delays to south bound traffic at weekends.

He said the delays often resulted in the stopping of traffic at the Sha Tin entrance to avoid having stationary traffic inside the tunnel.

/With a mile .....

With a mile long line of stopped traffic, the atmosphere in the tunnel would become stifling in spite of the ventilation system, Mr. May explained.

When plans for the Lion Rock Tunnel were first conceived, it was intended to be an economical route for conveying water from the Sha Tin filters of the Plover Cove Water Supply Scheme to the urban areas of Kowloon.

In 1960, it was decided that the proposed tunnel cross-section should be enlarged to provide space for an additional road link between Kowloon and Sha Tin.

The tunnel is 4,677 feet long, with a minimum head-room of fifteen-and-a-half feet capable of accommodating double-deck buses and other heavy commercial vehicles.

Traffic warning signs, carbon monoxide detectors, visibility meters, fire fighting equipment and emergency telephones have also been installed in the tunnel.

The tunnel was opened by Sir David Trench on November 14, 1967 at a ceremony held at the tunnel's Administrative Building.

To commerorate the fifth anniversary of the Lion Rock Tunnel, the staff will be holding a small dinner party in the Administrative Building tomorrow (Tuesday) evening.

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MR. ROYLE TO VISIT SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

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The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Anthony Royle, will visit a number of Asian countries after leaving Hong Kong on November 15.

His first stop will be Thailand where he will have an audience with the King and hold talks with his ministers.

In Nepal he will have discussions with ministers and will open a section of road which was built with the aid of British funds.

After leaving Nepal, Mr. Royle will visit India for talks with the Indian Foreign Minister.

He is due back in London on November 23.

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CLOSURE OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE AT KAI TAK

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The Commerce and Industry Department's trade documents receipt and issue office at Kai Tak will be closed down at the end of December.

A spokesman for the department said today that the office, which was opened in October 1971, had been so little used by the public that there was no justification for it remaining open.

However, companies wishing to submit certificate and licence applications in Kowloon will still be able to do so at the department's Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui offices.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD

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The section of Princess Margaret Road from its junction with Wylie Road to the Pui Ching Road flyover will be temporarily closed for six hours to both north and south bound traffic beginning tomorrow (Tuesday) at 11.55 p.m.

The temporary closure will enable contractors to place in position precast concrete deck beams for a footbridge across Princess Margaret Road.

North bound traffic to Mong Kok and Kowloon Tong will be diverted via Wylie Road; and south bound traffic to Tsim Sha Tsui via Fat Kwong Street and Chatham Road.

Normal traffic will be resumed at 6 a.m. on Wednesday (November 15).

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists during the closure.

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SENIOR LAND BAILIFF RETIRES

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Mr. P.A. Rull, Senior Land Bailiff of the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Public Works Department, is to retire soon after serving the Government for 27 years.

Mr. Rull first joined the civil service as an inspector of junks in the Marine Department in 1945, and was promoted to Assistant Marine Officer in January 1947.

He was transferred to the Public Works Department as Land Bailiff in 1950 and was promoted to the rank of Senior Land Bailiff in November 1964.

To mark his retirement, the Director of Lands and Survey, Mr. W.L.T. Crunden will present him with a memento at a farewell ceremony tomorrow (November 14).

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the presentation ceremony covered.

It will be held at 4.45 p.m. tomorrow in the conference room of the Public Works Department Headquarters on the 21st floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.

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