



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION MUST GO ON — SAYS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES	1
DELEGATION OF TRADE NEGOTIATORS LEAVING FOR E.E.C. TEXTILE TALKS IN BRUSSELS	2
A TOTAL OF 35 BUILDINGS PLANS WAS APPROVED IN FEBRUARY	3
PEDESTRIANS CAN NOW USE NEW ELEVATED WALKWAY NEAR HUNG HOM FERRY PIER	4
WATER CUT IN KOWLOON CITY ON SATURDAY	4
SIR MURRAY TO ATTEND CIVIL AID SERVICES' DINNER PARTY	5

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

'ANTI-GRAFT FIGHT MUST NOT SLACKEN' - DAVID FORD

THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK OR SLOWING DOWN NOW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR. DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS GIVING HIS PERSONAL VIEW ON RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT HONG KONG HAD ALREADY WASHED ENOUGH DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC AND THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO CALL OFF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

ADDRESSING ROTARIANS OF ISLAND EAST, MR. FORD NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD ATTRACTED MUCH ADVERSE PUBLICITY THROUGH CASES EXPOSED IN COURT, AND THE NEXT TWO YEARS WOULD PROBABLY SEE MORE OF THE SAME. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP PEOPLE CALLING HONG KONG CORRUPT -- BY TOTALLY ERADICATING CORRUPTION FROM OUR SOCIETY.

✦ALREADY THERE ARE SIGNS OF A CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE AND THE LOW STANDARDS OF HONESTY WHICH FOR SO LONG HAVE PERMEATED MUCH OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE BECOMING NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TODAY,✦ HE SAID. ✦BUT WE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, EMBARKED UPON A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO PROVOKE A FAIR AMOUNT OF NOISE ON ALL SIDES.✦

MR. FORD WAS PERSONALLY AGAINST SUGGESTIONS FOR GENERAL AMNESTIES AND WONDERED HOW THE ADVOCATES COULD POSSIBLY SEE AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION IN IT.

✦COULD ANYBODY REASONABLY ACCEPT THAT ANYBODY WHO WAS CORRUPT BEFORE MARCH 12, 1975 AND DECLARED THE PROFITS HE HAD MADE FROM CORRUPTION BE ALLOWED TO MOVE ON QUIETLY?✦ HE ASKED. HE ALSO QUESTIONED THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE MORALE OF HONEST PEOPLE WHO HAD SEEN THAT CRIME DID IN FACT PAY PROVIDING THEY ADMITTED IT AFTERWARDS.

✦WE ARE, I SUGGEST, A FAR CRY FROM THE SITUATION WHEN GENERAL AMNESTIES ARE A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM,✦ HE SAID.

ON THE QUESTION THAT THE ICAC SHOULD NOW BE STEERED AWAY FROM THE POLICE FORCE AND CONCENTRATE ON OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, MR. FORD SAID THE LEGAL SITUATION WAS QUITE CLEAR IN THAT THE ICAC HAD A STATUTORY DUTY TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS ABOUT CORRUPTION AND THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF PUTTING ASIDE REPORTS ABOUT ONE PARTICULAR DEPARTMENT.

✦IF THE COMMISSION WERE TO BE MANIPULATED IN ANY WAY FOR POLITICAL REASONS, ITS CREDIBILITY WOULD SURELY DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT.✦

/IT WAS NOT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

- 2 -

IT WAS NOT SURPRISING, HE WENT ON, THAT HALF THE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNED THE POLICE FORCE BECAUSE ITS MEMBERS COME IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC, MORE SO THAN OTHER DEPARTMENTS. ANOTHER REASON WAS THAT IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS A LARGE PROPORTION OF CORRUPTION INVOLVED PEOPLE WHO WERE SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICE THEY WERE GETTING AND THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO COMPLAIN UNLESS SOMETHING WENT SOUR.

MR. FORD SAID THE VAST NUMBER OF HONEST POLICEMEN WERE AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND SOUGHT NO FAVOURS FROM THE FORCE.

MR. FORD AGREED THAT WE MUST GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ICAC EXCEEDING ITS POWERS OR INFRINGING THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, BUT SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THIS WAS HAPPENING, AND THE INNOCENT HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE ICAC.

✦ IN ANY CASE THE CHECKS AND BALANCES WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO THE LAW AND THE PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. ✦

ON THE MEDIA'S ROLE, MR. FORD FELT THERE WAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE SCRUPULOUSLY FAIR REPORTING OF CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION. ✦ OUR MUCH TREASURED PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPINGE UPON THE FREEDOM AND RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, ✦ HE STRESSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR E.E.C. TEXTILE TALKS
* * * * *

A DELEGATION OF TRADE NEGOTIATORS FROM THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT LEAVES FOR DRUSSELS TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EEC ON A NEW TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT.

THE LONG-DELAYED NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO START ON MARCH 17.

MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, IN CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, WILL LEAD THE NINE-MAN TEAM.

HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY MR. PETER TSAO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, IN CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE COMMON MARKET AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE DELEGATION WILL BE JOINED BY HONG KONG'S MINISTER AND COUNSELLOR IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN DRUSSELS, MR. CLAUDE BURGESS AND MR. PAT DODGE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

- 3 -

35 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN FEBRUARY

* * * * *

APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE BUILDING PLAN OF THE CABLE CAR TERMINAL/RESTAURANT COMPLEX IN THE OCEAN PARK AT NAM LONG SHAN ROAD, ABERDEEN.

THE PROJECT WAS AMONG 35 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED LAST MONTH BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY, INCLUDING 13 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 10 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS COMPARES WITH A TOTAL OF 34 PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY, AND 61 IN FEBRUARY, 1974.

ALSO AT THE OCEAN PARK IN ABERDEEN, CONSENT HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS TO BEGIN WORK. THESE INCLUDE A WAVE TANK, SEAWATER RESERVOIRS AND THEIR COMPLEMENTARY PLANT HOUSES. OTHER PROJECTS TO WHICH CONSENT HAS BEEN GIVEN ARE A CANOE CENTRE IN STANLEY DAVY, A 24-CLASSROOM SCHOOL BUILDING IN NAM CHEONG STREET, AND ADDITIONAL STOREYS TO AN EXISTING BUILDING AT KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL.

IN ALL, CONSENT HAS BEEN GIVEN DURING THE MONTH TO A TOTAL OF 42 PROJECTS TO COMMENCE WORK.

A TOTAL OF 51 COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN FEBRUARY; THE TOTAL DECLARED VALUE OF THESE BUILDINGS AMOUNTED TO OVER \$95 MILLION.

THESE INCLUDE A SCHOOL BUILDING FOR THE HOLY TRINITY COLLEGE IN TAI HANG TUNG, A CLUB BUILDING, AND A STORE AND GAMES ROOM BUILDING OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB IN DEAS RIVER, SHEUNG SHUI.

TWENTY-TWO BUILDINGS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG WERE GIVEN DEMOLITION CONSENT IN THE MONTH, INCLUDING TWO DANGEROUS BUILDINGS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/s/

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

ELEVATED WALKWAY IN HUNG HOM READY

* * * * *

PEDESTRIANS CAN REACH THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WITHOUT MAKING A DETOUR FROM THE HUNG HOM FERRY PIERS NOW THAT THE ELEVATED WALKWAY SPANNING THE RAILWAY TERMINUS SITE AT HUNG HOM IS READY FOR USE.

THIS ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY WHICH INCLUDES ONE FOOTBRIDGE AT EITHER END, LEADS FROM THE WATERFRONT AREA NEAR THE TWO FERRY PIERS AT HUNG HOM TO YUK CHOI ROAD NEAR THE POLYTECHNIC. IT PROVIDES A PERMANENT EASY DIRECT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL FROM THE PIERS.

WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF THE WALKWAY FOR PEDESTRIAN USE, THE RIGHT OF WAY ACROSS THE RAILWAY TERMINUS SITE, WHICH HAS BEEN A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PEDESTRIANS, WILL BE CLOSED AS FROM SATURDAY, MARCH 15.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF P.W.D.'S RAILWAY DIVISION, MR. S. GRUNBERG, SAID THAT THE PROGRESS OF WORK AT THE TERMINAL SITE ALSO NECESSITATED THE CLOSING OF THE RIGHT OF WAY ACROSS IT.

HE SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO TO THE POLYTECHNIC FROM THE FERRY CONCOURSE AT HUNG HOM ON FOOT SHOULD USE THE ELEVATED WALKWAY.

UNAUTHORISED ENTRY INTO THE TERMINUS SITE WILL BE STRICTLY PROHIBITED, HE ADDED.

----- 0 -----

WATER CUT IN KOWLOON CITY

* * * * *

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TEMPORARILY TURNED OFF BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY (MARCH 15) TO ENABLE WATERWORKS OFFICE WORKERS TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MOU STREET, FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET AND LOK FU ESTATE INCLUDING THE H.K. BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL AND JUNCTION ROAD RESITE AREA.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1975

- 5 -

GOVERNOR TO ATTEND C.A.S. DINNER
* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT A CHINESE DINNER PARTY TO BE GIVEN BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AT THE GLOUCESTER RESTAURANT ON FRIDAY (MARCH 14).

ABOUT 650 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF C.A.S. WILL ATTEND.

SIR MURRAY WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR. P.C. WOO, AND THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR. J.A. FORTUNE.

AMONG THE GUESTS WILL BE DR. G. CHOA, THE HON. L.M. DAVIES, MR. B.F. SLEVIN, COL. I.G. DANIEL AND MR. J.W. CHAMBERS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS ARE WELCOMED TO COVER THE EVENT FROM 7.30 P.M. TO 8.10 P.M. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD DO SO ON THE GROUND FLOOR NEAR THE LIFT ENTRANCE TO THE GLOUCESTER RESTAURANT. NO PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE RECEPTION PRIOR TO THE DINNER AND IN THE DINING HALL AFTER 7.30 P.M.

COPIES OF THE COMMISSIONER'S SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE GLOUCESTER RESTAURANT.

----- 0 -----