



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME FOR KING'S ROAD UNDER CONSIDERATION	1
FIREMEN STEP UP CHECKS ON PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PLACES	3
PLANS FOR 66 NEW BUILDINGS APPROVED	3
SHA TIN SITES SOLD	4
DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE FUN IN CHRISTMAS PARTIES	5
LATEST DATE FOR POSTING LOCAL CHRISTMAS MAIL	6
HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT	6
CHRISTMAS DUTY-FREE BRANDY	7
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO HOLD GALA DAY	7

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

- 1 -

PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME FOR
KING'S ROAD UNDER CONSIDERATION

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING IN DETAIL A PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME IN THE HEAVILY CONGESTED KING'S ROAD WHICH WILL ALLOW PERMITTED TRAFFIC TO FLOW FREELY AND COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEYS IN GOOD TIME.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE EASTERN CITY DISTRICT COMMITTEE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. N.C.L. SHIPMAN SAID THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SCHEME ON TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL PATTERNS AND THE TIMES OF DAY OF ITS APPLICATION ARE BEING STUDIED AND NO COMMITMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS ARE ALSO STUDIED AND WOULD BE FAVOURED IF THEY CAN ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY PUBLIC TRANSPORT JOURNEY TIMES WITH LESS SEVERE RESTRAINTS ON THE PRIVATE MOTORISTS, HE SAID.

ESSENTIALLY, THE PROPOSED SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE A RESERVED BUS LANE OVER MOST OF THE EASTERN SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN CHAI WAN AND THE KING'S ROAD/JAVA ROAD JUNCTION.

ACCESS TO KING'S ROAD WEST OF THIS JUNCTION WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO BUSES, TRAMS, PLBS AND GOODS VEHICLES. THE REMAINING TRAFFIC WOULD BE DIVERTED ONTO JAVA ROAD AND ELECTRIC ROAD. SUCH A SCHEME WOULD REMOVE 60 PER CENT OF TRAFFIC FROM KING'S ROAD.

MR. SHIPMAN SAID THE STUDIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT SPRING, AND +ONCE FIRM PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP, PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA WILL BE ASKED THEIR OPINIONS ON THEM AND THEIR VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN.+

HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A STRONG CASE FOR GIVING PRIORITY TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES IN HEAVILY CONGESTED AREAS SUCH AS KING'S ROAD.

+THE CHOICE BEFORE US IS WHETHER TO TOLERATE THE PRESENT MISERY FOR EVERYONE OR TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, WHO ARE DEPENDENT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR JOURNEY IN REASONABLE TIME AND COMFORT,+ HE EXPLAINED.

BUSES, PLBS AND TRAMS ACCOUNT FOR A QUARTER OF THE VEHICLES BUT CARRY THREE-QUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE. SOME OF THE LARGE DOUBLE-DECKER METROBUSES NOW SERVING THE TAIKOO SHING TO CENTRAL ROUTE ARE DESIGNED TO CARRY UP TO 150 PASSENGERS WHEREAS THE AVERAGE CAR IS OCCUPIED BY LESS THAN TWO PERSONS.

FROM FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE 255 BUSES SCHEDULED TO OPERATE ALONG KING'S ROAD DURING THE PEAK HOUR, A FIGURE THAT IS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY A RESERVED LANE, HE SAID.

/OTHER THAN

OTHER THAN THIS TRANSPORT PRIORITY PROPOSAL, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO PLANNING FIVE MEASURES TO MOVE PEOPLE FASTER FROM CHAIWAN OR SHAUKEIWAN TO CENTRAL DURING PEAK HOURS. THESE ARE:

* IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUS SERVICE:

EIGHT NEW ROUTES ARE PLANNED FOR THE EASTERN ISLAND CORRIDOR, THREE STARTING IN FEBRUARY. INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF SEVERAL EXISTING SERVICES IS ALSO PLANNED=

* RELOCATION OF BUS TERMINUS:

IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF BUSES IN KING'S ROAD, NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON TO RELOCATE THE TERMINUS FOR ROUTES 20A AND 116 TO YAU MAN STREET=

* MORE FREQUENT FERRIES:

THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT TO BUILD A NEW FERRY LANDING AT TAI KOO SHING FOR A SECOND FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN EASTERN AND CENTRAL DISTRICTS. THE NEW BERTH, EXPECTED TO BE READY IN THE COMING YEAR, WILL TAKE LARGER BOATS THAN THE EXISTING PIER AT SAI WAN HO CAN. AN ADDITIONAL 16 HOVERFERRY SAILINGS FROM SAI WAN HO PIER WERE STARTED FROM NOVEMBER 1=

* PARK AND RIDE:

PART OF THE RECLAIMED LAND AT SAI WAN HO WILL BE USED AS A TEMPORARY CAR PARK TO ENCOURAGE MOTORISTS TO TRAVEL THE REST OF THE JOURNEY TO CENTRAL BY BUS OR FERRY= AND

* NEW FOOTBRIDGES:

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC FLOW BY REDUCING ON-STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS, AND TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, URGENT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO CONSTRUCTING FOOTBRIDGES AT KEY POINTS ALONG KING'S ROAD.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO WORKING ON LONGER-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT. THE INITIAL STRETCH OF A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD BE SOME 50 PER CENT FASTER THAN THE EXISTING TRAMS AND CARRY 50 PER CENT MORE PASSENGERS, COULD BE FUNCTIONING IN 1983 AND A LONGER ROUTE COULD BE AVAILABLE IN 1984 IF THE DECISION ON IT, TO BE TAKEN EARLY NEXT YEAR, IS FAVOURABLE.

SOME PROGRESS IS ALSO BEING MADE ON THE NEW WATERFRONT ROAD ALONG THE EASTERN ISLAND CORRIDOR WHICH HAS SUFFERED FROM DELAY, MR. SHIPMAN SAID.

RECLAMATION OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE ROAD IS TO BE BUILT HAS NOW BEEN GAZETTED AND IT IS NOW LIKELY THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START EARLY IN 1981 AND THE SECTION BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND HEALTHY STREET BE COMPLETED IN 1985.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING EARLIER PROGRESS IS BEING CONSIDERED AND A MORE DEFINITE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE EXPECTED EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR,+ HE SAID.

FIREMEN STEP UP CHECKS ON PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PLACES
* * * * *

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE FESTIVE SEASON, OFFICERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR CHECKS ON PUBLIC PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

THEY WILL VISIT RESTAURANTS, NIGHT CLUBS, CINEMAS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND OTHER PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR EMERGENCY EXITS ARE NOT BLOCKED, THEIR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IS OPERATIONAL, AND INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL IS PROPERLY STORED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES ALSO ADVISED OWNERS OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO RE-EXAMINE THEIR FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES AND, IF NECESSARY, REINFORCE THEM AS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL FLOCK TO THESE PLACES DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

HE ALSO HANDED OUT THE FOLLOWING ADVICE:

- * ALL STAFF, INCLUDING THOSE ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT, SHOULD KNOW THE EXACT LOCATIONS AND METHOD OF OPERATING FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT.
- * ALL EXITS AND EXIT SIGNS ARE NOT OBSTRUCTED. CLEAR EXIT ROUTES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.
- * ANY ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL WIRING SHOULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS.
- * AVOID PUTTING FLIMSY DECORATIONS NEAR LIGHT BULBS.
- * PROVIDE PLENTY OF SAFE ASH TRAYS.
- * +FULL HOUSE+ SIGNS SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLANS FOR 66 NEW BUILDINGS APPROVED
* * * * *

A TOTAL OF 66 NEW BUILDING PLANS WAS APPROVED LAST MONTH (NOVEMBER) BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 83 IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 20 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 15 IN KOWLOON AND 31 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED A TEACHING BLOCK OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, A HOTEL AT THE JUNCTION OF NATHAN ROAD AND SAIGON STREET, AND A CINEMA IN UN CHAU STREET, SHAM SHUI PO.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$348.55 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$370.63 MILLION LAST YEAR.

THE USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED LAST MONTH TOTALLED 277 509.6 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 74 431.4 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 203 078.2 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 54 PROJECTS, INCLUDING A BUILDING OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, A SCHOOL IN KWUN TONG, AND ANOTHER SCHOOL IN SHA TIN.

A TOTAL OF 58 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING A SCHOOL IN SAU MAU PING, A CHINESE PAVILION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AND A SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AT SAI YING POON.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ASSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 97 BUILDINGS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SHA TIN SITES SOLD
* * *

TWO SITES IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN, FOR LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, FETCHED RECORD PRICES IN THE AREA WHEN THEY WERE AUCTIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FIRST SITE, AT LOK LO HA, MEASURING 2 579 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO YEE CHEONG COMPANY LTD. FOR \$13 MILLION, REALISING \$6 329 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE SECOND SITE, AT KAU TO, WAS SOLD FOR \$7 MILLION. THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, SWEENEY INVESTMENT LTD., PAID \$6 930 PER SQUARE METRE FOR THE 1 010-SQUARE METRE SITE.

THE AUCTIONEER, SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. ROGER THOMPSON, DESCRIBED THE PRICES AS +VERY SATISFACTORY.+

MR. THOMPSON SAID THE RESULTS CLEARLY REFLECTED THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR HIGH QUALITY RESIDENTIAL SITES IN THE NEW TOWN.

BIDDING FOR THE LOK LO HA SITE STARTED AT \$6 MILLION.

THE SITE COMMANDS AN EXCELLENT VIEW OF SHA TIN RACE COURSE. IT HAS A PLOT RATIO OF 1 WHICH IS BASICALLY FOR FOUR-STOREY DEVELOPMENT. THE BUILDING COVENANT OF \$1.44 MILLION IS TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 36 MONTHS.

BIDDING FOR THE KAU TO SITE STARTED AT \$2.5 MILLION. IT HAS A PLOT RATIO OF ONLY 0.4 WHICH IS BASICALLY FOR TWO-STOREY DEVELOPMENT. THE BUILDING COVENANT, TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 36 MONTHS ALSO, IS \$160 000.

TODAY'S AUCTION WAS THE THIRD THIS YEAR OF RESIDENTIAL LAND IN THE NEW TOWN.

IN SEPTEMBER AN ADJACENT SITE IN KAU TO MEASURING 724 SQUARE METRES, ALSO FOR LOW DENSITY DEVELOPMENT, FETCHED \$4 420 PER SQUARE METRE.

IN JUNE A SITE FOR MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LOK LO HA MEASURING 1 679 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD FOR \$12.5 MILLION.

A FURTHER SEVEN RESIDENTIAL SITES AND TWO INDUSTRIAL SITES IN SHA TIN WILL BE SOLD TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS NEXT MONTH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE FUN IN CHRISTMAS PARTIES

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TODAY (THURSDAY) SHARED THE CHRISTMAS JOY WITH HUNDREDS OF DISABLED CHILDREN AT TWO SEPARATE PARTIES HOSTED BY THREE REHABILITATION CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE DIRECTOR, MR. THOMAS LEE, JOINED THE DISABLED TRAINEES OF THE WORLD REHABILITATION FUND DAY CENTRE AT THEIR CHRISTMAS PARTY AT KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND, WHILE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MRS. ANSON CHAN, ATTENDED THE JOINT PARTY OF THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE AND KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE IN WONG CHUK HANG.

AT THE PARTY IN KWUN TONG, THE DISABLED TRAINEES WERE ENTERTAINED TO A VARIETY OF PERFORMANCES WHICH INCLUDED LION DANCE, CHINESE MARTIAL ART, SINGING AND MAGIC SHOWS. SOME OF THEM DISPLAYED THEIR OWN TALENTS IN CHOIR, WHEELCHAIR DANCE AND SOLO PERFORMANCES. THERE WAS ALSO A LUCKY DRAW.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE PARTY, MR. LEE SAID THE GATHERING HAD PARTICULAR MEANING IN THAT THE CENTRE'S VOCATIONAL AND PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING SECTIONS WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEXT YEAR, WHILE THE SHELTERED WORKSHOP WOULD REMAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THAT TO COPE WITH CHANGING SOCIAL NEEDS, DEVELOPMENT AT THE CENTRE HAD BEEN PROGRESSIVE, WITH ITS NUMBER OF DISABLED TRAINEES RISING FROM A MEAGRE 56 IN 1968 TO THE PRESENT 290.

+THE CENTRE HAS MADE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH ITS TRAINING AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP PROGRAMMES IN PREPARING THE DISABLED FOR INDEPENDENT WORKING LIFE,+ HE SAID.

AT THE JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY IN WONG CHUK HANG, MRS. CHAN SHARED THE JOY WITH THE DISABLED CHILDREN AS EACH OF THEM RECEIVED A CHRISTMAS GIFT, NOT FROM SANTA CLAUS, BUT FROM THE AMUSING PANDA CHARACTER OF REDIFFUSION TELEVISION, +MO MO+.

THEY HAD FUN IN A LUCKY DRAW AND ENJOYED THE SHOWS BY THE MOBILE STREET THEATRE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES. SOME OF THEM ALSO PUT UP THEIR OWN TALENTS SHOWS TO THE DELIGHT OF THEIR FELLOW TRAINEES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

- 6 -

LATEST DATE FOR POSTING LOCAL CHRISTMAS MAIL
* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR POSTING LOCAL MAIL ITEMS TO ENSURE DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID: +POSTING AFTER THIS DATE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT
* * * * *

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ITS PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN AND THE PORT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE WILL REMAIN OPEN AS USUAL ON CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY, AND NEW YEAR DAY.

OFFICES OF THE MACAU FERRY WHARF UNIT WILL OPEN FROM 7.30 AM TO 1.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, AND FROM 7.30 AM ON JANUARY 1 TO 1.30 AM THE NEXT DAY.

IN ADDITION THE VICTORIA SMALL CRAFT LICENSING OFFICE WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON DECEMBER 26.

OTHER OFFICES OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND ON NEW YEAR DAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

- 7 -

CHRISTMAS DUTY-FREE BRANDY
* * * * *

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU DURING THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS DAY (DECEMBER 26 AND 27, 1979) MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 1 LITRE.

THIS CONCESSION IS ALLOWED IN LIEU OF THE NORMAL ONE-QUART BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO HOLD GALA DAY
* * * * *

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WILL STAGE A GALA DAY ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 23) AT THE SERVICE'S TRAINING SCHOOL IN TAI LAM CHUNG TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND TO MARK ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE EVENT SUBSIDISED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE WELFARE FUND IS TO PROVIDE A DAY OF FUN AND RELAXATION FOR SOME 3 000 MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. WILLIAM DORWARD WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING AT 10.45 AM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR A PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE GALA DAY OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IN ITS TRAINING SCHOOL IN TAI LAM CHUNG ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 23).

A GOVERNMENT COACH CE 10 WILL BE WAITING UNDER THE CHEONG WAN ROAD FLYOVER, HUNG HOM FERRY PIER, BETWEEN 9.15 AM TO 9.30 AM ON DECEMBER 23 TO TAKE THE PRESS AND GUESTS TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL.

- - - - 0 - - - -