



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1976

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PWD RACES TO FINISH HING WAH ESTATE
AHEAD OF TIME

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ARCHITECTS ARE WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO FINISH THE NEW HING WAH ESTATE IN CHAI WAN AHEAD OF TIME SO AS TO PROVIDE NEW HOMES FOR THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

MR. JOSEPH LEI, CHIEF ARCHITECT, PWD, SAID TODAY AN EMERGENCY BUILDING PROGRAMME HAD BEEN LAUNCHED TODAY TO COMPLETE AT LEAST TWO OF THE SEVEN DOMESTIC BLOCKS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND HAND THEM OVER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THE TWO BLOCKS, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY APRIL, WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 700 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS WITH INDIVIDUAL KITCHEN AND TOILET FACILITIES FOR ABOUT 3,300 PEOPLE.

AS PART OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURES, THE PWD ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE HAS APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO CONTINUE WORK ON THE ESTATE AT NIGHT.

+THIS IS VITAL IF WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF FINISHING THE TWO BLOCKS WITHIN THE 15-DAY TIME LIMIT WE HAVE SET OURSELVES,+ MR. LEI SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE VARIOUS ITEMS OF WORK IN THE CRASH BUILDING PROGRAMME HAD BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT SO THAT DISTURBANCE TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA WOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

+THE WHOLE OPERATION INVOLVES A RATHER INTRICATE PROGRAMME OF 16 DIFFERENT ITEMS OF WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN VARIOUS SHIFTS WITH THE LESS NOISY ONES TO BE DONE AT NIGHT,+ HE SAID.

EXTRA WORKERS WERE BEING BROUGHT IN TO HELP SPEED UP THE WORK.

MR. LEI SAID THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE WAS CLOSELY CO-ORDINATING WITH THE WATERWORKS OFFICE AND THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY TO ENSURE THAT WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONCE THE TENANTS MOVE IN.

HE NOTED THAT MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAD GONE INTO THE PLANNING OF THE CRASH PROGRAMME SINCE THE FIRE LAST SUNDAY, AND DESPITE MANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TWO BLOCKS WOULD BE READY BY FEBRUARY 20.

+THIS IS A COMPLEX OPERATION WHICH WILL BRING EXTREME PRESSURE ON RESOURCES AND EVERYONE CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY THE CONTRACTOR AND THE WORKERS, BUT ALL THAT MATTERS AT THIS STAGE IS TO GET NEW HOMES READY FOR THE FIRE VICTIMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.+

MEANWHILE, THE SITE AT HING WAH WAS A SCENE OF FRENZIED ACTIVITY TODAY AS MASONS, PAINTERS, CARPENTERS, DRAIN LAYERS AND LABOURERS RACED AGAINST TIME TO GET THE TWO BLOCKS FINISHED.

/TODAY,

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TODAY, MOST OF THE PAINTING WAS COMPLETED AND WORK STARTED ON FITTING IN THE WINDOW PANES AND OTHER FIXTURES.

THE WHOLE ESTATE IS ABOUT 90 PER CENT COMPLETE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY FINISHED IN APRIL.

IT WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE A TOTAL POPULATION OF ABOUT 22,600 PEOPLE.

IT WILL BE SERVED BY TWO ESTATE SCHOOLS, A WELFARE HALL, A MARKET, RESTAURANT AND LARGE OPEN SPACES FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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OVER \$300,000 PAID OUT TO FIRE VICTIMS

MORE THAN \$308,000 WAS PAID OUT TO THE VICTIMS OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED BY PUBLIC-SPIRITED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ORGANISATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SAID.

PAYMENTS BEGAN AT 11 A.M. TODAY AT THE SALESIAN SCHOOL IN CHAI WAN ROAD. BY 3.30 P.M., 3,083 PEOPLE HAD EACH RECEIVED \$100.

TO HELP SPEED UP THE CASH DISTRIBUTION, MORE THAN 100 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS WERE MOBILISED AND SOME TEN DISTRIBUTION CENTRES WERE SET UP.

THE POLICE AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS HELPED TO KEEP ORDER AND FACILITATE THE DISTRIBUTION WORK.

MOST OF THE FIRE VICTIMS HAD COLLECTED THEIR MONEY BY NOON. A SMALL NUMBER HOWEVER HAD NOT YET FOUND TIME TO COLLECT THEIRS BY LATE AFTERNOON.

THEY CAN DO SO BY CALLING AT THE SHAU KEI WAN CDO SUB-OFFICE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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HONG KONG HOSTS SEMINAR FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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MORE THAN 50 DELEGATES FROM ABOUT 20 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG OVER THE WEEK-END TO ATTEND A WEEK-LONG SEMINAR ON THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN).

THE MTN ARE NEGOTIATIONS HELD UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE TO HELP LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO REMOVE TRADE BARRIERS.

THE SEMINAR STARTS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, AND CLOSSES ON FEBRUARY 16. IT WILL BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HANG SENG BANK BUILDING IN THE DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

THE SEMINAR IS SPONSORED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (ESCAP) AND THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNTRIES IN THOSE REGIONS TO MEET AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THEM IN THE MTN AND TO INCREASE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE STILL GOING ON IN GENEVA.

ALTHOUGH THE MTN WERE STARTED IN 1973 IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1975 THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS GOT UNDERWAY.

OFFICIALS WHO WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR IN HONG KONG INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDIA, MALAYSIA, NEW HEBRIDES, SINGAPORE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SRI LANKA, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, THAILAND, NEPAL, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, PAKISTAN AND BHUTAN.

HONG KONG WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MR. JUSTIN YUE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND MR. PETER WISE, PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, BASED IN GENEVA.

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, WILL OPEN THE SEMINAR.

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TWO CROWN LAND LOTS UP FOR SALE NEXT MONTH

TWO LOTS OF CROWN LAND WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE BY AUCTION ON MARCH 5 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE LECTURE ROOM, 8TH FLOOR, CITY HALL.

ONE LOT IS SITUATED AT HOLLYWOOD ROAD, HONG KONG. IT MEASURES 2,200 SQ.FT. AND IS EARMARKED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

THE OTHER LOT, MEASURING 22,180 SQ. FT., IS AT SZE SHAN STREET, SAM KA TSUEN, KOWLOON. IT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG, AND AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

SALE PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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NEW CONTROLLER OF RADIO PROGRAMMES

MR. K.J. WARBURTON ARRIVES IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 6) TO TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT OF CONTROLLER OF RADIO PROGRAMMES IN RADIO HONG KONG.

KEN WARBURTON, AN EXPERIENCED BROADCASTER, HAS BEEN SECONDED TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND WILL STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAMME PLANNING TEAM OF RADIO HONG KONG.

HE HAS BEEN WITH THE B.B.C. SINCE 1967 AND IS A SENIOR PRODUCER WITH RADIO SOLENT, ONE OF THE LARGER B.B.C. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

PRIOR TO JOINING THE B.B.C. HE HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AS A JOURNALIST.

THE NEW CONTROLLER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN.

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SECONDARY PUPILS URGED TO DEVELOP
INQUIRING MINDS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, THIS AFTERNOON URGED PUPILS ATTENDING THE EIGHTH SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' SEMINAR AT MORRISON HOUSE TO THINK OF WAYS OF MAKING THEIR ACTIVITIES AS INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING AS POSSIBLE, THUS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS TO DEVELOP INQUIRING, ANALYTICAL MINDS.

HE STRESSED THAT COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE DID NOT STIMULATE LASTING INTEREST OR ENTHUSIASM.

MR. TOPLEY SAID : +ACTUALLY THE BEST THING YOU CAN OFFER YOUR COMMUNITY IS THE SERVICE OF YOUR YOUNG, FRESH, FLEXIBLE MINDS.+

THE DIRECTOR TOLD THEM TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD IN THE CLASSROOM AND OUT OF IT, BY TAKING PART IN EVENTS LIKE THE SEMINAR THEY WERE ATTENDING, TO DEVELOP A CRITICAL, INQUIRING MIND AND LOOKING FOR FRESH WAYS OF SOLVING OLD PROBLEMS.

THE SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS COULD ONLY DO SO MUCH AND THEREFORE MUCH DEPENDED ON THE PUPILS' OWN WILLINGNESS TO SEEK OUT ANSWERS, TO TRY FOR THEMSELVES, NO MATTER HOW EXHAUSTING, DISCOURAGING THEIR ATTEMPTS MIGHT BE.

+I DOUBT IF ANYONE CAN MAKE A SERIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY, IMAGINATIVELY,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR - +WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN?+ - SHOULD PROVE STIMULATING AND MR. TOPLEY SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD WITH INTEREST TO READING THE FINAL REPORT.

THE DIRECTOR CONGRATULATED PAST AND PRESENT ORGANISING COMMITTEES FOR MAKING THE SEMINARS POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL.

THE PRESENT SEMINAR COMPETED EFFECTIVELY WITH THE OTHER ATTRACTIONS OF A SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND MR. TOPLEY SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT THE STUDENTS WERE DOING SOMETHING THEMSELVES WITH MINIMAL ADULT PARTICIPATION.

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FUN FAIR FOR 1,000 CHILDREN

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A LUNAR NEW YEAR FUN FAIR HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE LAM TIN ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES FOR ABOUT 1,000 CHILDREN IN THE AREA THIS SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 7) AFTERNOON.

IT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PLAYGROUND OF BLOCK 19 OF LAM TIN ESTATE BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.

ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 8), ABOUT 1,500 VILLAGERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN A FUN FAIR ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S LIBRARY AND RURAL MOBILE SERVICES AND YOUTH WORK UNITS.

THE FUN FAIR WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE LIONS CLUB LAM TSUEN YOUTH CENTRE IN LAM TSUEN, TAI PO, AT 2 P.M.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE DAY INCLUDE A CHINESE OPERA SHOW TO BE PERFORMED BY THE CHINESE OPERA SOCIETY OF THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THERE WILL BE MORE THAN TEN GAMES STALLS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE TWO FAIRS.

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