



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1979

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INITIAL WORK ON EASTERN ISLAND CORRIDOR
EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT FISCAL YEAR

PRELIMINARY WORK ON THE NEW EASTERN ISLAND CORRIDOR WILL PROCEED DURING THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR- AND IF ALL GOES WELL -- AND THAT INCLUDES THE ECONOMY GENERALLY AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR BEING ABLE TO TAKE THE STRAIN -- THE FIRST PART OF THE NEW ROAD COULD BE READY IN 1985.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW NORTH POINT FERRY PIER (WEST).

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID: +THIS CORRIDOR WILL HELP GREATLY TO RELIEVE THE VERY SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.+

+IT WILL BE BACKED BY VASTLY IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER, PERHAPS INCLUDING A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JEAFFRESON CONFIRMED THAT THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY IS DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT FERRY PIERS GENERALLY AND PARTICULARLY ON THE NEWLY OPENED PIER.

+WITH OUR PRESENT SHORTAGE OF LAND, MY OWN VIEW IS THAT FERRY PIERS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO THE MAXIMUM,+ HE SAID.

THOUGH COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD MAKE THE PIERS MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE TO USERS, MR. JEAFFRESON FELT THAT IN THE TRUE HONG KONG TRADITION, THIS DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ON A FULLY COMMERCIAL BASIS. THERE MUST BE NO HIDDEN SUBSIDY FROM GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO USERS OF THE FERRIES.

+THERE IS A RECENT PRECEDENT HERE, TOO,+ HE SAID. +THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAS DEVELOPED EXTENSIVELY ABOVE ITS STATIONS. BUT IT PAID FULL PREMIA IN ORDER TO DO SO.+

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO EXPLAINED THAT ONE OF THE BERTHS OF THE NEW PIER WILL BE OUT OF OPERATION UNTIL 1981 TO FACILITATE THE INTERCONNECTION OF CABLES BETWEEN THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. AND HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO WHICH WILL ENABLE BOTH COMPANIES TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS IN COSTS AND IN TURN WILL BENEFIT THE CONSUMERS IN TERMS OF THE PRICE THEY PAY FOR ELECTRICITY.

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FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL DISTRICT
AND EASTERN TIP OF HK ISLAND
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A NEW FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TAIKOO SHING AND CENTRAL DISTRICT IS EXPECTED TO START OPERATING SOME TIME NEXT YEAR AND THIS WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE CONSIDERATION FOR INTRODUCING A FERRY SERVICE FROM CHAI WAN.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF OPERATING A FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN CHAI WAN AND CENTRAL DISTRICT WAS BEING EXPLORED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATERBORNE TRANSPORT.

HE SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND CHAI WAN KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION LAST MONTH WENT TO LOOK AT POSSIBLE SITES IN THE AREA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FERRY PIER.

HE REITERATED THAT SUCH A PLAN WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE EXISTING SAI WAN HO FERRY PIER, WHICH WAS BUILT FOR TWO FERRY SERVICES IN 1973, WAS NOW BEING UTILISED BY FOUR FERRY ROUTES.

+IN ORDER TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AT THE PIER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE SITE FOR A SECOND FERRY TERMINAL IN THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

A SUITABLE SITE AT TAIKOO SHING HAS NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A PASSENGER FERRY TERMINAL BY PROVIDING A PONTOON AGAINST THE EXISTING SEAWALL. THIS TERMINAL WILL BE CAPABLE OF RECEIVING LARGER VESSELS THAN THE EXISTING PIER AT SAI WAN HO. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FERRY SERVICES FROM THE NEW PIER AT TAIKOO SHING WOULD BEGIN TO OPERATE IN THE COMING YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TAIKOO SHING HAD A LOT OF COMMUTERS GOING TO CENTRAL DISTRICT. THE ESTATE WAS CLOSE TO THE WATERFRONT AND COASTAL FERRY SERVICES WERE WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA. +FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS FELT THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A FERRY SERVICE WILL BE ATTRACTIVE,+ HE SAID.

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HK DELEGATION BACK FROM WATER TALKS IN GUANGZHOU
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THE HONG KONG DELEGATION IS BACK AFTER TALKS IN GUANGZHOU WITH THE WATER CONSERVANCY AND ELECTRIC POWER BUREAU OF GUANGDONG ON FUTURE WATER SUPPLIES TO HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, WHO LED THE DELEGATION, DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS AS +VERY SATISFACTORY+.

HE EXPECTS THAT A SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT HONG KONG WOULD BE ASSURED OF ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

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SPECIAL STAMPS ON HONG KONG PARKS AND BUILDINGS
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THE POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE THREE SETS OF SPECIAL STAMPS IN 1980.

THE SPECIAL STAMPS TOGETHER WITH FIRST-DAY COVERS WILL FEATURE RURAL ARCHITECTURE, HONG KONG PARKS, AND PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE RURAL ARCHITECTURE ISSUE WILL COMPRISE THREE STAMPS WITH DENOMINATIONS OF 20 CENTS, \$1.30 AND \$2, WHILE THE HONG KONG PARKS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ISSUES WILL EACH HAVE FOUR STAMPS WITH AN ADDITIONAL DENOMINATION OF \$1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID FURTHER DETAILS, INCLUDING THE DATES OF ISSUE OF THESE STAMPS, WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

THIS YEAR, THREE SETS OF SPECIAL STAMPS AND FIRST-DAY COVERS ON HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, LOCAL BUTTERFLIES AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WERE ISSUED IN JANUARY, JUNE AND OCTOBER RESPECTIVELY.

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DISPATCH OF RATING NOTICES

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT IS IN THE COURSE OF DISPATCHING NOTICES OF RATEABLE VALUE (FORMS R4) TO RATEPAYERS OF RATEABLE PREMISES ON CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LANTAU, MA WAN AND LAMMA ISLANDS, AND IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE MAINLAND NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WERE SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL FOR RATING PURPOSES IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

PREMISES IN THESE AREAS WILL BECOME LIABLE FOR RATES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1980.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE PURPOSE OF SENDING THE NOTICES OF RATEABLE VALUE IS TO INFORM RATEPAYERS OF THE RATING ASSESSMENTS OF THEIR PROPERTIES.

+LEAFLETS EXPLAINING GENERALLY ABOUT RATES, LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT, EXEMPTIONS, ETC. WILL BE SENT WITH THE NOTICES. RECIPIENTS ARE ADVISED TO STUDY THE LEAFLETS CAREFULLY, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAVE NOT PAID RATES BEFORE, + HE SAID.

RATEPAYERS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO PAY ATTENTION TO PROCEDURES, REGARDING THE MAKING OF PROPOSALS FOR THE ALTERATION OF RATEABLE VALUES, WHICH ARE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THE NOTICES.

ANYONE WHO IS IN DOUBT REGARDING THE RATEABLE VALUE ASSESSED FOR HIS PROPERTY OR OTHER ASSOCIATED RATING MATTERS MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT 24-34 HENNESSY ROAD, SEVENTH FLOOR, TAI SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, TELEPHONE 5-284037.

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CAPACITY OF TUEN MUN WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO BE DOUBLED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE TUEN MUN TREATMENT WORKS TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR WATER GENERATED FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

WORK ON THE EXTENSIONS TO THE PLANT WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 33 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

A CONTRACT FOR THE WORK COSTING MORE THAN \$18 MILLION WAS SIGNED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING BETWEEN THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION), MR. LEE GUN-CHEUNG, OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF KUMAGAI GUMI (HONG KONG) LTD., AT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IN LEIGHTON CENTRE.

THE WORK, COMPRISING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHEMICAL HOUSE, A 4 000-CUBIC METRE CLEAR WATER TANK, TWO RAPID GRAVITY FILTERS, TWO CLARIFIERS AND A WASH WATER RECOVERY TANK, WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES. THE FIRST STAGE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE MIDDLE OF 1981 AND THE SECOND STAGE BY OCTOBER 1982.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT, THE CAPACITY OF THE TUEN MUN TREATMENT WORKS WILL BE RAISED TO 182 000 CUBIC METRES A DAY.

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AWARD FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATE

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A FORMER GRADUATE OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (IEE) PRIZE FOR 1979.

HE IS MR CHOR YEE-LOK, WHO IS NOW PURSUING AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE AT THE PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC.

MR CHOR WAS A GRADUATE OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S TWO-YEAR FULL-TIME TECHNICIAN DIPLOMA COURSE IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING IN 1975.

THE IEE PRIZE, WHICH CONSISTS OF A CERTIFICATE AND A CHEQUE FOR 50 POUNDS, IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS PURSUING APPROVED UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN ELECTRICAL OR ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AT SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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NO MAIL DELIVERY ON NEW YEAR DAY

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THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON NEW YEAR DAY.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID: +NORMAL DELIVERIES WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 2).+

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 1.

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RE-OPENING OF TAK SHING STREET

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A SECTION OF TAK SHING STREET IN TSIM SHA TSUI FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH NATHAN ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH TAK HING STREET WILL BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 31).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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