



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

GREEN PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLISHED	1
BIGGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR SHA TIN	3
32 SITES IN NT FOR SALE	5
OCTOBER WEATHER ROUND-UP	6

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 1 -

GREEN PAPER ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
SOCIAL SECURITY IN HONG KONG

* * * * *

A GREEN PAPER WHICH SETS OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR A PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT IS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE NEXT MAIN DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL SECURITY SHOULD CONSIST OF A STREAMLINING AND REFINING OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME= THE EXTENSION OF NON-MEANS TESTED BENEFITS TO THE ELDERLY AND TO THOSE INCAPABLE OF WORK= AND THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A SEMI-VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THEM WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS HOPED THAT AFTER THESE VIEWS AND OTHER FACTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, A WHITE PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN 1978.

THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER INCLUDE:

IMPROVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME ARE PROPOSED TO PROVIDE A SAFETY NET FOR ALL THOSE IN NEED AND TO ENSURE AN INCOME THAT THEY CAN RELY ON. THESE INCLUDE : A LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT= AN OLD-AGE SUPPLEMENT= AN INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE CAPABLE OF BEING SELF-SUPPORTING= AND THE SETTING UP OF AN APPEAL BOARD.

WELFARE ALLOWANCE SCHEME

IT IS PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE WELFARE ALLOWANCE SCHEME, PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME, TO COVER THOSE IN INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION AND THE CHRONIC SICK= AND TO LOWER THE QUALIFYING AGE FROM 75 TO 73 AND THEN TO 70.

SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SCHEME, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A MONTHLY BENEFIT FOR EMPLOYEES OFF WORK LONGER THAN 36 DAYS= A LUMP SUM FOR THOSE WHO REACH THE AGE OF 60= AND A LUMP SUM FOR THE HEIRS OF THOSE WHO DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF 60.

A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE PROPOSAL IS THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO EACH EMPLOYEE WHETHER OR NOT HE WISHED TO JOIN, AND IF HE DID, HIS EMPLOYER WOULD HAVE TO PAY CONTRIBUTIONS TOO. THE EMPLOYER COULD CONTRACT OUT IF HE COULD PROVIDE BENEFITS SUCH AS WOULD BE CONFERRED UNDER THE SCHEME.

/THE DIRECTOR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 2 -

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID THAT THE PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE GREEN PAPER WERE MADE FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE HONG KONG'S SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROGRAMMES.

+THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSION OF THIS REVIEW IS THAT THE PRESENT AIM OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY - TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES - IS RIGHT.+

ACCORDINGLY, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS NOT TO ALTER THE PRESENT BASIS OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY BUT TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE.

+THE PROPOSALS, IF APPROVED, WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, STARTING FROM APRIL 1978. ON TOP OF THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS AT \$250 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, THE TOTAL COST OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROPOSALS FOR THE YEAR 1978/79 WOULD BE IN THE ORDER OF \$65 MILLION RISING TO AROUND \$188 MILLION IN 1982/83. EXPENDITURE ON THE CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME WOULD BE ADDITIONAL.+

IN DETERMINING THE PRIORITIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT, MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN, OR CONCERN WITH, SOCIAL WELFARE MATTERS.

+THE NEED FOR CONSULTATION APPLIES WITH PARTICULAR FORCE TO THE SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME AS THIS WOULD BE A SEMI-VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME. IT NEEDS TO BE ASSURED OF A FAIR MEASURE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT BEFORE IT IS LAUNCHED,+ HE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ARE ASKED TO DO SO BEFORE THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR. COMMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO : THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 7TH FLOOR, MAIN WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE VARIOUS CITY DISTRICT OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON, THE DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES= AND THE MARKETING OFFICE, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AT 1A, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

A PAMPHLET SUMMARISING THE MAIN PROPOSALS OF THE GREEN PAPER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED FOR EASY REFERENCE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREA, DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, ALL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 3 -

CONTRACT FOR THE BIGGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SIGNED
* * * * *

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED THE MAIN CONTRACT FOR THE NEW \$225 MILLION SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT TO THE AOKI CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. OF JAPAN.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH MORE THAN \$153 MILLION, IS FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING WORKS OF STAGE ONE OF THE PROJECT—THE BIGGEST OF ITS TYPE EVER UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG.

IT INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY SEDIMENTATION TANKS, AERATION TANKS, FINAL SETTLING TANKS, SLUDGE DIGESTION AND HOLDING TANKS, A LABORATORY, AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, A POWER HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS, INCLUDING ROADS AND FENCING, AND THE LAYING OF A SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

THE CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS THIS MORNING BETWEEN MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE P.W.D., AND MR. HIROYOSHI AOKI, PRESIDENT OF THE AOKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

MR. STEAD SAID THAT THE PLANT, THE FIRST STAGE OF WHICH IS PARTLY FINANCED BY A \$95 MILLION LOAN FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WAS A MAJOR PART OF COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC LIQUID WASTES FROM SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

IT WOULD BE BUILT JUST NORTH OF THE NEW RACECOURSE AT THE NEW TOWN ON 17 HECTARES OF RECLAIMED LAND.

WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, THE PLANT WOULD SERVE THE NEW TOWN'S ENTIRE POPULATION OF MORE THAN HALF A MILLION.

MR. STEAD SAID THAT WORK WOULD BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT PART OF THE PLANT WOULD BECOME OPERATIONAL BY JUNE 1980, SOME SIX MONTHS BEFORE COMPLETION.

+THE PLANT'S CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE HAS BEEN GEARED TO KEEP PACE WITH THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE NEW TOWN'S DEVELOPMENT AND, IN FACT, IT WILL BE RACING AHEAD OF INITIAL POPULATION INCREASE,+ SAID MR. STEAD.

+BY THE TIME IT IS COMMISSIONED IN 1980 THE POPULATION OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN SHOULD BE ABOUT 150,000 WHILE THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WILL BE CAPABLE OF SERVING SOME 230,000 PEOPLE.+

A FEATURE OF THE NEW PLANT WILL BE ITS ABILITY TO PARTLY SELF-PERPETUATE ITS OWN OPERATING POWER. METHANE GAS, A BY-PRODUCT OF SEWAGE TREATMENT, WILL BE FED BACK INTO THE SYSTEM TO HELP DRIVE THE PLANT'S ELECTRICAL GENERATORS.

/THE PLANT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 4 -

THE PLANT WILL BE ABLE TO TREAT MORE THAN 102,000 CUBIC METRES OF RAW SEWAGE PER DAY.

THE MAXIMUM SEWAGE FLOW TO THE PLANT FOR FULL TREATMENT, WOULD BE 3.6 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND - A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN TREATMENT CAPACITY OVER THE EXISTING TEMPORARY PLANTS, MR. STEAD ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE TREATMENT SYSTEM OF THE NEW PLANT WOULD INVOLVE A SERIES OF COMPLEX PROCESSES WHICH COULD ROUGHLY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE STAGES - TWO STAGES OF PHYSICAL TREATMENT AND ONE OF BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT.

THESE PROCESSES WOULD REMOVE ABOUT 92 PER CENT OF THE POLLUTANTS IN THE SEWAGE BEFORE THE CLEAR EFFLUENT IS DISCHARGED INTO THE LANDLOCKED TOLO HARBOUR.

HE SAID THAT SPACE HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR A TERTIARY TREATMENT PROCESS WHICH WOULD REMOVE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE PER CENT OF THE POLLUTANTS SHOULD MONITORING OF THE CONDITIONS IN TOLO HARBOUR SHOW SUCH A NEED.

MR. STEAD EXPLAINED: +PART OF THE BIOLOGICAL STAGE OF THE TREATMENT PLANT WILL BE EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT NITROGEN REMOVAL, THIS BEING ONE OF THE NUTRIENTS WHICH MAY CAUSE RED TIDES IN LARGE BODIES OF WATER WITH LITTLE TIDAL EXCHANGE.

+THEREFORE, MAXIMUM PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TOLO HARBOUR IS PRESERVED FOR ITS VALUABLE NATURAL FISH BREEDING PROPERTIES, AND AS AN AREA OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY WHICH IS INCREASINGLY BEING USED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.+

THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY WATSON (H.K.) CHARTERED CIVIL ENGINEERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE P.W.D.'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 5 -

32 SITES IN NT PLANNED FOR SALE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PUT UP FOR AUCTION OR TENDER 32 PRIME DEVELOPMENT SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BEFORE THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE SITES, COVERING A TOTAL OF 13.7 HECTARES, ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL PROGRAMMES, 16 OF THE SITES WERE TO BE DISPOSED OF BY PUBLIC AUCTION, TWO BY PUBLIC TENDER AND 14 BY TENDER RESTRICTED TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE DOCUMENTS.

HE SAID THAT 10 SITES PLANNED FOR PUBLIC AUCTION WERE FOR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COVERING ABOUT 1.7 HECTARES, FIVE SITES FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES COVERING 1.5 HECTARES AND ONE SITE OF 0.2 HECTARE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+THE RESIDENTIAL SITES ARE ON SOUTH LANTAU AND PENG CHAU AS WELL AS IN SAI KUNG AND TUEN MUN, WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL SITES ARE IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THOSE FOR PUBLIC TENDER ARE ONE SITE OF ABOUT 10,000 SQUARE METRES IN KWAI CHUNG EARMARKED FOR A SLAUGHTER HOUSE, AND ANOTHER OF 66,530 SQUARE METRES, ALSO IN KWAI CHUNG, FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE 14 SITES SCHEDULED FOR TENDER RESTRICTED TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS COMPRISE EIGHT FOR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COVERING ABOUT 1.3 HECTARES, AND SIX FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES COVERING NEARLY 1.4 HECTARES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL SITES ARE IN TUEN MUN, EXCEPT FOR TWO WHICH ARE LOCATED ON FEI NGO SHAN, ONE COVERING 2,982 SQUARE METRES AND THE OTHER, 2,369 SQUARE METRES.+

THE INDUSTRIAL SITES ARE EITHER IN TSUEN WAN OR TUEN MUN. TWO ARE EARMARKED FOR +OFFENSIVE+ TRADES AND THE OTHERS FOR INDUSTRIAL-CODOWN DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1977

- 6 -

OCTOBER WAS WETTER THAN NORMAL

* * * * *

OCTOBER WAS MUCH WETTER THAN NORMAL WITH A TOTAL OF 195.8 MM RAINFALL RECORDED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY - NEARLY TWICE THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 99.2 MM.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR TO 1666 MM WHICH IS 21 PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE.

THE SUMMER RAINFALL BETWEEN MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 31 WAS 1,592 MM OR 12 PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE AND LIES NEAR THE MIDDLE OF THE RANGE 1,450 - 1,850 MM WHICH WAS PREDICTED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN FEBRUARY.

NEARLY HALF OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL RAINFALL WAS RECORDED ON OCTOBER 26 WHEN HONG KONG EXPERIENCED VERY HEAVY RAIN. RAIN WAS HEAVIEST BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND NOON THAT DAY WHEN 51.7 MM OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

DURING THE HEAVY RAIN, TEMPERATURES FELL TO A MINIMUM OF 21.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS THE LOWEST RECORDED IN THE MONTH.

BESIDES THE VERY HEAVY RAIN EXPERIENCED ON OCTOBER 26, THE REST OF THE MONTH WAS FINE AND SUNNY.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONES AFFECTED HONG KONG DURING THE MONTH ALTHOUGH FOUR WERE REPORTED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC.

ON OCTOBER 1 THERE WERE A FEW SHOWERS IN THE MORNING BUT THE AFTERNOON WAS FINE AND TEMPERATURES ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 31.2 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

CONDITIONS BECAME MORE UNSTABLE AND ON THE NEXT DAY THUNDERSTORMS WERE REPORTED IN MANY LOCALITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HEAVIER SHOWERS AND MORE FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS WERE EXPERIENCED ON OCTOBER 4 AND 5.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE LONG SUNNY PERIODS ON OCTOBER 6, THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY WITH LIGHT RAIN AS AN INTENSE COLD FRONT PASSED EARLY THE NEXT MORNING.

HEAVY SHOWERS WERE REPORTED DURING THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 10 WHEN ANOTHER SURGE OF COOLER AIR ARRIVED THROUGH THE TAIWAN STRAIT.

WINDS IN HONG KONG FRESHENED FROM THE EAST AND BECAME STRONG IN EXPOSED PLACES AND OFF-SHORE THE FOLLOWING MORNING. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FOR ABOUT NINE HOURS, THE FIRST OCCASION SINCE LAST WINTER.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON OCTOBER 11 AND REMAINED FINE AND SUNNY UNTIL OCTOBER 25 APART FROM SOME LIGHT RAIN ON SEVERAL NIGHTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -