



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1975

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URBAN RENEWAL PILOT SCHEME

THE URBAN RENEWAL PILOT SCHEME IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL SOON TAKE ANOTHER BIG STEP FORWARD WHEN WORK BEGINS ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY TO SERVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORK TO GET UNDERWAY UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IN THE PILOT SCHEME AREA AFTER SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTIES IN THE AREA.

TENDERS FOR THE ROAD PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INVITED AND CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START SHORTLY.

THE FIRST LOTS ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PILOT SCHEME AREA WILL SOON BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION AND FURTHER SITES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AS CLEARANCE OPERATIONS CONTINUE.

MR. D.M. SCOTT-WILL, CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE P.W.D.'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION, SAID TODAY THE SCHEME HAD NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE ONLY 47 PROPERTIES IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP REMAINED TO BE ACQUIRED AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY TO ACQUIRE THESE ON MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TERMS.

+SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE FINANCING NEXT YEAR, AND BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES, THE PROPERTY ACQUISITION WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1977,+ HE SAID.

SO FAR, HE ADDED, 286 PROPERTIES HAD BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$46,000,000. +WE ARE ALSO MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN VACATING OCCUPIED PROPERTIES AND REHOUSING DOMESTIC OCCUPANTS SO THAT DEMOLITION WORK CAN CONTINUE,+ MR. SCOTT-WILL SAID.

TO DATE, OVER 4,700 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE SCHEME HAVE BEEN REACCOMMODATED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

MR. SCOTT-WILL SAID THE LAND FOR THE REGRADING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PARTS OF SAI STREET AND LOWER LASCAR ROW TO FORM THE NEW ROAD LINKING QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND HOLLYWOOD ROAD HAD ALREADY BEEN CLEARED OF BUILDINGS TO MAKE WAY FOR THE PROJECT.

+A TEMPORARY HAWKER BAZAAR IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN CIRCULAR PATHWAY TO FACILITATE RE-SITING OF HAWKERS FROM THE ALIGNMENT OF THE NEW LINK ROAD, AND LATER A PERMANENT HAWKER BAZAAR WILL BE PROVIDED IN FAT HING STREET.+ HE ADDED.

THE LINK ROAD WILL BE ABOUT 220 METERS LONG RUNNING THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE PILOT SCHEME AREA SO AS TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS AND SHOPPING PROMENADES IN THE AREA. A SPECIAL LOADING AND UNLOADING BAY FOR GOODS VEHICLES WILL ALSO BE BUILT ALONG PART OF THE NEW ROAD. MOST OTHER STREETS IN THE AREA WILL BE FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY.

ONE OF THE COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL SITES FRONTING QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, MR. SCOTT-WILL SAID, WOULD BE GRANTED BY PRIVATE TREATY TO THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY FOR BUILDING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION TOGETHER WITH SHOPS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO IN HAND TO CLEAR ANOTHER COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL SITE IN POSSESSION STREET TO MAKE WAY FOR THE REPROVISIONING OF THE EXISTING ELECTRIC SUB-STATION IN LOWER LASCAR ROW, HE ADDED.

+OVERALL,+ MR. SCOTT-WILL SAID, +THE SCHEME IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.+

+LAND SALES WILL CONTINUE AS SITES BECOME AVAILABLE FOLLOWING VACATION, REHOUSING AND DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS, AND THE PILOT SCHEME AREA IN ITS FINAL FORM CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE LARGELY COMPLETED IN THE EARLY 1980'S, ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS AFTER THE LAST LAND SALE HAS TAKEN PLACE.+

THE PILOT SCHEME AREA COVERS ABOUT 12.81 ACRES AND IS BOUNDED BY QUEEN'S ROAD IN THE NORTH AND WEST, HOLLYWOOD ROAD IN THE SOUTH AND SHING WONG STREET IN THE EAST.

ON COMPLETION, THERE WILL BE TWO SITES FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACES, A CONTROLLED HAWKER BAZAAR AND TWO SCHOOLS IN ADDITION TO COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

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ROYAL OBSERVATORY CALENDAR
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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY 1976 CALENDAR WILL BE READY FOR SALE LATER THIS MONTH.

THE CALENDAR WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ON THE TIMES OF SUNRISE, SUNSET, MOONRISE, MOONSET, DATES OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AS WELL AS THE TIMES OF HIGH TIDE AND LOW TIDES. THE 24 SOLAR TERMS OF THE CHINESE CALENDAR AND LUNAR ECLIPSES WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE CALENDAR WILL BE THE COLLECTION OF INTERESTING INFORMATION IN 12 FINELY ILLUSTRATED PAGES. TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE THE INTERPRETATION OF SATELLITE PICTURES, LUNAR ECLIPSES, CLIMATOLOGY OF SOME SOUTHEAST ASIAN CITIES, STORM SURGES, TROPICAL CYCLONE, RAINFALL, AND A GREAT CIRCLE DISTANCE-BEARING MAP WITH HONG KONG AS CENTRE.

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