



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1979

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GOVT MUST LOOK BEYOND NEW TOWNS  
TO COPE WITH POPULATION GROWTH

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO LOOK BEYOND THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO PROVIDE FOR MORE LAND FOR HOMES, FACTORIES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN FACE OF THE LARGE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 11TH TERM OF OFFICE BEARERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT HONG KONG'S POPULATION HAD INCREASED BY 200,000 OR MORE PEOPLE FROM CHINA IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS, EVEN IF THE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM EVENTUALLY MOVE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

+NO ONE CAN SAY FOR SURE WHAT THE POPULATION WILL BE IN FIVE YEARS' TIME BUT IT IS SENSIBLE FOR US TO LOOK NOW AT WHAT EFFECT THESE PRESSURES OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE ON OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, ON EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND UPON OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT THE 10-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME OF 1973 COULD ALMOST SEE AN END TO THE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE HOUSING AND A DAY WHEN IT COULD BEGIN TO REMOVE THE SQUATTER HUTS FROM THE HILLSIDES.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT NO ONE COULD SAY THAT TODAY.

+OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME TO BUILD 35,000 UNITS OF PUBLIC HOUSING IS ALREADY PUTTING A STRAIN ON OUR ABILITY TO BUILD, TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE STABILITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND ALSO AVOID OVERHEATING THE ECONOMY BY PUMPING TOO GREAT AN AMOUNT OF PUBLIC FUNDS INTO THE ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED: +IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE WITH A HOUSING PROGRAMME, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WELL BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NEW TOWNS AS THEY ARE PRESENTLY PLANNED.

+WE MUST LOOK FOR MORE LAND FOR HOMES, FACTORIES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, AND I CANNOT THINK OF ANY WAY TO EXPAND, EXCEPT INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+MOREOVER IT WOULD BE WISE TO THINK IN LARGE NUMBERS OVER A LONG TIME AND THEN TO WORK OUT HOW WE ARE GOING TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES, IN EVERY SENSE, FOR THE IMMENSE AND SUSTAINED EFFORT THAT WILL BE NEEDED.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT THIS YEAR HONG KONG SEEMED TO FACE MANY PROBLEMS ALL AT ONCE -- A FUEL SHORTAGE, A TRADE DEFICIT, FINANCIAL RESTRAINT, INFLATION AND A HUMAN TIDE OF PEOPLE.

+THEY SEEM TO THREATEN THE LIVING STANDARDS THAT WE HAVE SO CAREFULLY AND DILIGENTLY ACHIEVED BY HARD WORK AND ENTERPRISE OVER MANY YEARS.

+SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS WE SHARE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT THERE CAN BE NOWHERE WHERE THEY ARE SO CONCENTRATED.

/+AND YET .....

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+AND YET IT IS THE WAY WE FACE UP TO OUR PROBLEMS AND WHAT WE ACHIEVE DESPITE THEM, THAT GIVES HONG KONG AND ITS PEOPLE A SPECIAL MEANING IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

+AND I BELIEVE, THAT IF WE LOOK FOR AN EASY WAY OUT INSTEAD OF DETERMINING TO DO THINGS OUR OWN WAY AND, BASICALLY, TO SOLVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS WE MAY LOSE OUR SELF-RESPECT AND THE RESPECT IN WHICH WE ARE HELD IN MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD,+ HE ADDED.

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OVER 1,250 MILLION TRAVELLED BY  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT LAST YEAR  
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MORE THAN 1,253 MILLION PEOPLE TRAVELLED BY FRANCHISED PUBLIC TRANSPORT LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 68.8 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S TOTAL.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO TRAVELLED BY KOWLOON BUSES ROSE FROM 810.9 MILLION TO 860.4 MILLION, AND BY HONG KONG BUSES FROM 239.6 MILLION TO 254.6 MILLION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ATTRIBUTED THE INCREASES TO IMPROVED SERVICES AND LARGER CAPACITY OF THE BUS FLEETS.

+THE NEW, LARGER CAPACITY VEHICLES ENABLED THE TWO BUS COMPANIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS FROM A DAILY AVERAGE OF 2.9 MILLION TO OVER 3 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

+ALTHOUGH BOTH COMPANIES HAVE LARGER OPERATING FLEETS, IT IS BECOMING EVIDENT THAT UNTIL THE INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY COMES INTO FULL OPERATION IN EARLY 1980, TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON ROADS WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS TO COPE WITH THE EVER INCREASING DEMAND.+

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT 200 ADDITIONAL VEHICLES WHICH ARE NOW BEING ACQUIRED WILL EVENTUALLY BRING THE COMBINED FLEET TO 2,620 VEHICLES.

AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUTERS CARRIED BY THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE FROM 134.6 MILLION TO 138.6 MILLION.

THE COMPANY'S 162 DOUBLE-DECK TRAMCARS AND 22 SINGLE-DECK TRAILERS CARRIED ABOUT 380,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY.

ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF PASSENGERS DROPPED FROM 1.6 MILLION TO 1.4 MILLION.

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SERVICES FOR CARE AND EDUCATION OF  
PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE SERVICES FOR THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED UNDER SIX AND EXPECTS TO PUBLISH A GREEN PAPER ON ITS PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS LATER THIS YEAR.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS. ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS TODAY (MONDAY) WHILE DISCUSSING THE SERVICES OF CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS IN HER ADDRESS TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE Y'S MEN'S CLUBS OF VICTORIA AND HONG KONG.

MRS. CHAN SAID EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, AGED TWO TO FIVE YEARS, SHOULD NOT BE A FORMALISED LEARNING PROCESS BENT ON ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT.

SHE POINTED OUT THERE WAS INCREASING SUPPORT FOR EARLY EDUCATION TO BE MORE PLAY-ORIENTATED SO THAT THE CHILD COULD LEARN AND DEVELOP AT HIS OWN PACE THROUGH ACTIVITIES HE CARRIED OUT HIMSELF.

THIS WAS BORNE OUT, SHE SAID, IN A SAMPLE SURVEY CONDUCTED LAST YEAR OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BELOW PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE, IN WHICH PARENTS GAVE LOW PRIORITY TO FORMAL TEACHING IN KINDERGARTENS.

MRS. CHAN SAID BOTH CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS SERVE A COMMON POPULATION IN THE 3-5 YEARS AGE RANGE AND MEET SIMILAR OBJECTIVES.

THE 1976 BY-CENSUS MEDIUM POPULATION PROJECTIONS INDICATE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE 2-5 AGE RANGE WILL RISE FROM 319,000 IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO 380,000 BY SEPTEMBER 1990, SHE SAID.

ABOUT 45 PER CENT OF CHILDREN AGED THREE, AND NEARLY 90 PER CENT OF THOSE AGED FOUR AND FIVE ARE ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTENS, WITH THE TOTAL ENROLMENT IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR BEING AROUND 180,000, COMPARED WITH AN ENROLMENT OF ABOUT 13,000 IN CHILD CARE CENTRES.

MRS. CHAN SAID THAT IN KINDERGARTENS, MOST OF WHICH WERE PRIVATE PROFIT-MAKING INSTITUTIONS, THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO OVER-STRETCH THE USE OF RESOURCES AND FACILITIES IN A WAY WHICH WAS NOT ALWAYS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ATTENDING THESE INSTITUTIONS.

KINDERGARTENS, SHE SAID, ARE SUBJECT TO MUCH LESS REGULATION THAN CHILD CARE CENTRES. THE LATTER WERE GENERALLY DEVELOPING ALONG SOUND LINES WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS IN 1976.

SHE SAID KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WERE OFTEN UNTRAINED, AND AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE MOTIVATION AND PHILOSOPHY OF KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS AND THE PEOPLE WHO USED THEM.

+IN HONG KONG, KINDERGARTENS ARE SEEN BY MANY PARENTS AS AN ESSENTIAL STEPPING STONE TO ENTRY INTO A GOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND IN SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT BECAUSE COMPETITION FOR ENTRY TO GOOD PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS KEEN AND MANY IMPOSED STIFF ENTRANCE TESTS, UNDUE PRESSURE WAS PUT ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.

MANY KINDERGARTENS ARE JUDGED BY THEIR SUCCESS IN GETTING CHILDREN INTO GOOD PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND CONSEQUENTLY ROTE LEARNING OF THE 3 RS WAS EMPHASISED BASED ON OPERATORS' KNOWLEDGE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS, SHE ADDED.

MRS. CHAN SAID THAT IF HONG KONG'S KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WAS TO DEVELOP ALONG MORE ENLIGHTENED LINES, AND THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THIS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE PREVAILING CONCEPTS HELD BY BOTH OPERATORS AND CLIENTS.

+THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE SOME FORM OF CENTRALISED CONTROL OVER ENTRY INTO PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH WOULD RELIEVE PRESSURE ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE LENGTH OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, SHE SAID IT WAS WORTH CONSIDERING WHETHER THE PRESENT THREE-YEAR KINDERGARTEN COURSE STARTING AT THE AGE OF THREE SHOULD NOT BE SHORTENED TO TWO.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT STRICTLY SPEAKING, UNDER THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE, KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WAS INTENDED TO BE ONE YEAR ONLY.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE NEEDS OF A THREE-YEAR OLD WERE BEST CATERED FOR IN A KINDERGARTEN, AND NOT IN A CHILD CARE CENTRE, AS A CHILD OF THAT AGE WAS STILL VERY DEPENDANT AND VULNERABLE AND REQUIRED MUCH INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION.

IN THE AREA OF CHILD CARE CENTRES, MRS. CHAN SAID THAT THE PRESENT PROVISION WAS LARGELY SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IT HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTRA 1,000 SUBVENTED PLACES EVERY YEAR, SUBJECT TO SUITABLE PREMISES AND SPONSORS BEING AVAILABLE.

+THERE ARE NOW A TOTAL OF ABOUT 15,000 CHILD CARE CENTRE PLACES OF ALL TYPES, OF WHICH NEARLY 11,000 ARE SUBVENTED PLACES, AND THIS YEAR'S SUBVENTION TO CHILD CARE CENTRES IS EXPECTED TO REACH NEARLY \$20 MILLION,+ SHE SAID.

LAST YEAR, SHE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS ENCOURAGING THE INTEGRATION OF MILDLY DISABLED CHILDREN WITH NORMAL CHILDREN BY PROVIDING 60 PLACES IN ORDINARY SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES FOR THESE CHILDREN, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 60 PLACES CREATED THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE NOW SIX SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES CATERING FOR 187 MODERATELY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, SHE ADDED.

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MRS. CHAN SAID INTEGRATING HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WITH NORMAL CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE CENTRES WAS A VERY NEW CONCEPT AND SOME PARENTS SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS BETTER THAN OTHERS, WHILE THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE RESERVATION.

+PERHAPS THIS IS AN AREA WHERE SOME EDUCATION OF THE PARENTS MIGHT DO SOME GOOD,+ SHE SAID.

IN ASKING WHETHER CHILD CARE FACILITIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE LARGELY GOVERNMENT-FINANCED AND RESTRICTED TO CHILDREN OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, MRS. CHAN SAID THERE SEEMED NO REASON WHY A VIABLE PRIVATE SECTOR COULD NOT BE DEVELOPED IN THIS AREA IN THE SAME WAY AS IT HAD IN KINDERGARTENS.

SHE SAID SUBVENTED CHILD CARE PLACES WERE INTENDED FOR CHILDREN OF FAMILIES WITH A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEED FOR SUCH PLACES, BUT A SURVEY LAST YEAR INDICATED THAT ONLY HALF THE CHILDREN OCCUPYING SUBVENTED PLACES WERE IN FACT ELIGIBLE.

FINANCIAL NEED IS DEFINED AS A TOTAL FAMILY INCOME NOT EXCEEDING THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL PLUS ONE-THIRD, BUT THIS RIGID INCOME CUT-OFF POINT MAY ALSO RESULT IN HARDSHIP TO FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME ARE JUST marginally HIGHER, SHE SAID.

MOREOVER, SHE SAID, THE PRESENT CONCEPT OF SUBVENTING CHILD CARE CENTRES MEANS THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED ARE PLACED TOGETHER AND ISOLATED FROM OTHER CHILDREN, WHEN THERE SHOULD BE A GREATER DEGREE OF MIXING.

TO OVERCOME THESE DRAWBACKS OF THE EXISTING SUBVENTION SYSTEM, SHE SAID A FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME BASED ON A SLIDING SCALE MIGHT BE A BETTER ALTERNATIVE.

+MEANS-TESTING WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MOVE AWAY FROM SUBVENTING CENTRES AS SUCH TO ASSISTING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES TO MEET THE APPROVED FEES CHARGED BY EACH INSTITUTION,+ SHE SAID.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
VISIT SITES  
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MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE SPENT THIS (MONDAY) MORNING VISITING SOME OF THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG.

ALSO ON THE TOUR WERE SOME OF THE UMELCO MEMBERS.

THE TOUR, LED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. HENRY CHING, WAS ARRANGED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

APART FROM PROVIDING MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AT FIRST HAND PROGRESS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS, THE TOUR ALSO ENABLED THEM TO STUDY WORKS NOW UNDERWAY AND THE SITES OF PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS IN PREPARATION FOR THIS YEAR'S SECOND REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE (P.W.S.C.) COMPRISES THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. HENRY CHING (CHAIRMAN), MR. ROGER LOBO, MR. JAMES WU, MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. LI FOOK-WO, MR. J.H. BREMRIDGE, MR. FRANCIS TIEN, MR. CHEN SHOU-LUM, MISS LYDIA DUNN, DR. HENRY HU, MR. LEUNG TAT-SHING, REV. P.T. MCGOVERN, MR. PETER C. WONG, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL. THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMITTEE IS MR. C.K. TAYLOR OF THE FINANCE BRANCH.

EACH YEAR THE SUB-COMMITTEE HOLDS TWO MEETINGS TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, AND TO CONSIDER NEW ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAMME.

THE UMELCO MEMBERS TAKING PART IN THE TOUR TODAY WERE MR. ALEX WU, MR. WONG LAM, MR. CHARLES YEUNG AND DR. HO KAM-FAI.

MEMBERS OF THE P.W.S.C. AND UMELCO WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. WILLIAM BELL= THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. JACK STEAN= THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. NICKY CHAN AND THE TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF THE P.W.D., MR. JOHN MARSHALL.

THE TOUR STARTED OFF WITH A VISIT TO THE \$42 MILLION INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE IN HUNG HOM.

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE CENTRE IS THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AUTOMATIC MAIL SORTING EQUIPMENT WHICH COSTS \$22 MILLION, ABOUT HALF OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT.

BUILDING WORK ON THE CENTRE BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1977 AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION LATER THIS YEAR.

A RAILWAY SPUR AND PLATFORM IS PROVIDED TO HANDLE MAIL TO AND FROM CHINA WHILE FOUR BERTHS FOR MAIL LAUNCHES WILL BE BUILT ALONG THE SEAWALL SOUTH OF THE CENTRE.

THE PARTY THEN WENT TO LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN KOWLOON TONG.

/THE \$18.9 .....

THE \$18.9 MILLION PROJECT COMPRISES A FOUR-STOREY ADMINISTRATION BLOCK AND A FIVE-STOREY TEACHING BLOCK, ACCOMMODATING 55 CLASSROOMS AND WORKSHOPS FOR COURSES IN ENGINEERING, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, FOOTWEAR TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL DESIGN.

IT IS NAMED AFTER MR. LEE WAI LEE IN RECOGNITION OF A DONATION OF \$5 MILLION.

THE INSTITUTE IS THE FOURTH NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO BE BUILT, THE OTHERS BEING AT KWUN TONG, KWAI CHUNG AND CHEUNG SHA WAN.

BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ISLAND, MEMBERS OF THE P.W.S.C. VISITED THE BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL WHICH WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SINGLE TRACK TUNNEL THAT HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE 1910.

THE DOUBLE TRACK TUNNEL IS SO DESIGNED THAT ITS HEIGHT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW FOR THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE PARTY SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN THE TUNNEL WORK WHICH IS ABOUT 35 PER CENT COMPLETE.

ON COMPLETION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1981, THE \$78 MILLION TUNNEL WILL BE 2.3 KILOMETRES LONG.

THE GROUP ENDED THEIR TOUR WITH A VISIT TO THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

THE \$306 MILLION PROJECT, COMPRISING THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, THE CONTROL BUILDINGS, THE WONG CHUK HANG INTERCHANGE, AND THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER EXTENSION, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1981.

THE TWIN TUNNEL, WHICH PROVIDES A FAST AND DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND THE NORTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND, IS ABOUT 1.8 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH.

SO FAR, THE TUNNELLING AT THE NORTH PORTAL HAS PROGRESSED ABOUT 1,300 METRES IN THE NORTH BOUND TUNNEL AND ABOUT 250 METRES IN THE SOUTH BOUND TUNNEL WHILE EXCAVATION AND RIB INSTALLATION AT SOUTH PORTAL FOR BOTH TUNNELS ARE IN PROGRESS.

MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE CONTROL BUILDINGS AND THE WONG CHUK HANG INTERCHANGE, IS MAKING PROGRESS.

THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER EXTENSION WHICH LINKS THE NORTH PORTAL OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WITH THE EXISTING FLYOVER STRUCTURE AT GLOUCESTER ROAD IS ABOUT 77 PER CENT COMPLETE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ELEVATED ROAD IS TO PROVIDE A HIGH CAPACITY ROUTE FROM THE SOUTHERN END OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

IT WILL ALSO RELIEVE TRAFFIC CONGESTION BY PROVIDING GRADE SEPARATION AT THREE BUSY ROAD JUNCTIONS AT LEIGHTON ROAD/CANAL ROAD, LEIGHTON ROAD/MORRISON HILL ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD EAST/WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD/MORRISON HILL ROAD.

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REMINDER ON THE DANGER OF LPG ON SMALL CRAFT  
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ONCE AGAIN REMINDED OWNERS OF JUNKS AND SMALL CRAFT TO HAVE THEIR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) EQUIPMENT ON BOARD THEIR VESSELS EXPERTLY FITTED AND SITED.

+ADDITIONALLY, THE EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE OVERHAULED REGULARLY AND EACH TIME IT IS USED, CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE FOR LEAKAGES. WHEN NOT IN USE THE GAS SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AT THE BOTTLE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT A NUMBER OF SERIOUS FIRES AND EXPLOSION HAD OCCURRED ON SMALL CRAFT DUE TO LEAKAGE OF THE GAS FROM FAULTY FITTINGS OR POORLY SITED AND IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED APPLIANCES.

HE EXPLAINED: +LPG IS HEAVIER THAN AIR AND IF ALLOWED TO LEAK FROM CONTAINERS OR PIPING IT CAN FLOW TO THE BOTTOM OF THE COMPARTMENT IN WHICH THE INSTALLATION IS LOCATED.

+THERE THE GAS DIFFUSES AND CAN FORM AN EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE WITH AIR WHICH CAN BE IGNITED BY VARIOUS MEANS INCLUDING A LIGHTED CIGARETTE AND SPARKING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

+THE GAS CAN ALSO BE DRAWN INTO THE AIR INTAKE OF AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE LEADING TO AN UNCONTROLLABLE SPEEDING UP OF THE ENGINE WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SUMMARY RESULTS OF 1977 CENSUS OF INDUSTRY  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE 1977 CENSUS OF INDUSTRY.

THE CENSUS COVERED MANUFACTURING, MINING AND QUARRYING, AND THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER.

INFORMATION SOUGHT INCLUDED TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED, LABOUR COST, CONTRACT AND COMMISSION WORK, PURCHASES, OPERATING EXPENSES, SALES, WORK DONE FOR OTHERS, STOCKS AND CAPTIAL EXPENDITURE.

+THIS INFORMATION ENABLES THE DEPARTMENT TO DERIVE STATISTICS ON GROSS OUTPUT AND CENSUS VALUE-ADDED, WHICH MEASURE THE PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRY SECTORS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

/GROSS OUTPUT .....

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GROSS OUTPUT COMPRISES THE VALUE OF SALES OF GOODS PRODUCED, INDUSTRIAL SERVICES RENDERED, AND CHANGES IN STOCKS OF WORK IN PROGRESS AND FINISHED PRODUCTS.

+CENSUS VALUE-ADDED IS OBTAINED BY SUBTRACTING FROM GROSS OUTPUT THE VALUE OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES CONSUMED IN THE COURSE OF PRODUCTION, + THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED. THEY ARE BOTH EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF CURRENT PRICES.

THE TOTAL GROSS OUTPUT FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN 1977 AMOUNTED TO \$51,709 MILLION AND TOTAL CENSUS VALUE-ADDED, \$18,149 MILLION, BOTH REPRESENTING A SIX PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1976.

THE LARGEST FIVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES RANKED IN ORDER OF CENSUS VALUE-ADDED IN 1977 WERE:

- \* WEARING APPAREL (\$4,785 MILLION)=
- \* TEXTILES (\$2,813 MILLION)=
- \* ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (\$2,388 MILLION)=
- \* PLASTIC PRODUCTS (\$1,590 MILLION), AND
- \* FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS EXCEPT MACHINERY (\$1,299 MILLION).

THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 71 PER CENT OF THE VALUE-ADDED TOTAL IN MANUFACTURING.

INDUSTRIES ATTAINING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN GROSS OUTPUT AND CENSUS VALUE-ADDED BETWEEN 1976 AND 1977 WERE NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS, LEATHER PRODUCTS, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, BEVERAGES, AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INDUSTRIES ENCOUNTERING MORE NOTICEABLE DECREASES IN SUCH MEASURES WERE FOOTWEAR (EXCEPT THOSE MADE OF RUBBER AND PLASTIC), TEXTILES, RUBBER PRODUCTS, BASIC METALS, AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

A REPORT ON THE 1977 CENSUS OF INDUSTRY IS NOW BEING PREPARED. ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CENSUS RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

FOLLOWING ARE THE STATISTICS ON THE CENSUS:

/SUMMARY RESULTS.....

## SUMMARY RESULTS OF 1977 CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

Gross output and Census value added for reporting manufacturing establishments  
classified by industry group for the years 1976 and 1977

(HK\$ '000)

Industry group	Gross output			Census value added		
	1976	1977	% change	1976	1977	% change
Food	1,243,966	1,530,494	23.0	381,438	440,736	15.5
Beverages	386,012	501,807	30.0	259,055	332,100	28.2
Tobacco	438,693	439,830	0.3	290,829	287,175	-1.3
Wearing apparel, except knit- wear and footwear	12,661,381	13,090,968	3.4	4,597,398	4,784,511	4.1
Textiles (including knitting)	11,861,383	10,412,754	-12.2	3,322,470	2,813,392	-15.3
Leather and leather products, except footwear and wearing apparel	190,147	276,612	45.5	61,858	87,335	41.2
Footwear, except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear	246,464	200,697	-18.6	109,619	92,893	-15.3
Wood and cork products except furniture	359,840	436,175	21.2	138,668	162,890	17.5
Furniture and fixtures, except primarily of metal	295,226	326,932	10.7	151,977	168,473	10.9
Paper and paper products	596,706	598,801	0.4	203,337	208,246	2.4
Printing, publishing and allied industries	1,158,344	1,367,367	18.0	549,372	665,003	21.0
Chemical and chemical products	656,550	866,282	31.9	254,628	313,685	23.2
Rubber products	263,065	247,560	-5.9	108,551	94,477	-13.0
Plastic products	3,534,237	3,689,384	4.4	1,443,482	1,590,316	10.2
Non-metallic mineral products	373,639	626,844	67.8	113,314	178,763	57.8
Basic metal industries	672,369	784,653	16.7	202,223	185,983	-8.0
Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	2,873,609	3,104,147	8.0	1,210,488	1,299,386	7.3
Machinery, except electrical	624,580	609,842	-2.4	303,318	303,708	0.1
Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies	6,193,586	7,639,671	23.4	1,860,336	2,387,861	28.4
Transport equipment	763,802	688,499	-9.9	478,806	463,430	-3.2
Professional and scientific equipment not elsewhere classified and photographic and optical goods	1,700,033	2,473,675	45.5	446,790	600,853	34.5
Other manufacturing industries	1,656,980	1,796,012	8.4	631,026	688,175	9.1
All manufacturing industries	48,750,612	51,709,006	6.1	17,118,983	18,149,392	6.0

Note : Figures may not add up exactly to the totals due to rounding.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1979

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REMOVAL OF DIVISIONAL OFFICE  
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THE BUILDING AND ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL MOVE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) FROM THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD.

THE OFFICE HANDLES MATTERS RELATING TO THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW MAIN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE WILL BE 12-677111. THE EXTENSION FOR THE DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR IS 120 AND 121 AND, 122 FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, A SECTION OF THE FANLING-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH LAM KAM ROAD AND THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO HONG LOK YUEN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE ADJACENT KOWLOON-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE ROUTED TWO-WAY ALTERNATIVELY.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS WILL BE OPERATING 24-HOUR DAILY TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FLOW.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT  
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY HONG LEE ROAD, KUNG LOK ROAD AND ON TAK ROAD INCLUDING BLOCK NOS. 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 TO 12 OF UPPER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE.

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