



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY ADDRESSES DIVERSIFICATION SEMINAR	1
1,200- BED HOSPITAL FOR TUEN MUN	3
DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978	4
RESULTS OF TENDER FOR 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES	5
OVER 170 FIREMEN PROMOTED OR GIVEN ACTING APPOINTMENTS	5
REDUNDANT TEACHERS REGISTER FOR JOBS	6
CROWN LAND SALES	6
CONTRACT FOR A SECOND VIADUCT FOR TUEN MUN ROAD SIGNED	7
RETIREMENT OF ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE	8
FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR	9
AVIARY FOR KOWLOON PARK	10
SUBSTITUTE RAILWAY AREA PLAN	10
SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES GOES ON LEAVE	11
COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS	11

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 1 -

ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY ADDRESSES DIVERSIFICATION SEMINAR

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, WHICH HAS COMPLETED ITS STUDY OF THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, WILL +VERY SHORTLY+ BE MOVING ON TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS A CASE FOR MODIFYING EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR EXTENDING THEM, BOTH TO STIMULATE EXPORTS AND TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF DIVERSIFICATION.

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS TODAY WHEN DELIVERING AN INAUGURATION MESSAGE AT A SEMINAR ON DIVERSIFICATION OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE LIKELY FUTURE DETERMINANTS OF GROWTH OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES THAT MADE UP OUR ECONOMY, INCLUDING SOCIO-POLITICAL AND GEO-POLITICAL FACTORS, AND THE RESTRICTIVE IMPACT OF THE NEW GENERATION OF TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS.

+AND IT HAS ARRIVED AT CERTAIN FORECASTS OF THE LIKELY GROWTH OF EXPORTS OF BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES OVER THE FIVE YEARS 1978 TO 1982,+ HE SAID.

+THE MACRO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FORECASTS ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED, THAT IS TO SAY, WE ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THESE FORECASTS OF THE GROWTH OF EXPORTS IMPLY FOR THE GROWTH RATE OF G.D.P. IN THE FUTURE.

+SO, VERY SHORTLY, WE SHALL BE MOVING ON TO THE ESSENTIALLY DELIBERATIVE STAGE, THAT IS TO SAY, CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THERE IS A CASE FOR MODIFYING EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND/OR EXTENDING THEM, BOTH TO STIMULATE EXPORTS AND TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF DIVERSIFICATION,+ HE SAID.

AS THE RANGE OF POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED WAS VERY WIDE THIS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, HE SAID.

+I SHOULD ADD THAT IT WILL BE AT THIS STAGE THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE LOOKING AT OVERSEAS PRACTICES TO SEE WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG IN FACILITATING DIVERSIFICATION. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE CONSULTING OFFICIALLY WITH A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING VARIOUS SECTORS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.+

CLEARLY, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD NEITHER BEEN INACTIVE NOR HAD IT BEEN SUFFERING FROM +A LOSS OF DIRECTION+.

+WHEN ITS REPORT IS COMPLETED I HOPE IT WILL BE SEEN TO BE A DEFINITIVE STUDY OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ATTITUDES AND OBLIGATIONS.

/+MEANWHILE,

- 2 -

+MEANWHILE, LET ME HASTEN TO ADD THAT THE ECONOMY IS NOT WAITING WITH BATED BREATH FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO SUSTAIN OUR PROSPERITY. IN MY BUDGET SPEECH IN MARCH, I ESTIMATED THAT G.D.P. IN REAL TERM WOULD GROW AT 9 PER CENT THIS YEAR, A RESPECTABLE RATE OF GROWTH BY ANY STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY AS WE ARE NOW IN THE MATURE PHASE OF THE RECOVERY FROM THE 1974-75 RECESSION.

+CONSIDERATION OF THE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT HAS BECOME AVAILABLE SINCE THEN SUGGESTS THAT THE EXTERNAL SECTOR IS GROWING, AT PRESENT, FASTER THAN MY FORECAST, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS IMPORTS. THIS IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT. IT IS TRUE THAT DOMESTIC ACTIVITY IS ALSO GROWING FASTER THAN MY FORECAST, BUT THE PERSONAL CONSUMPTION COMPONENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO SLOW DOWN LATER IN THE YEAR.

+ALL IN ALL, ON PRESENT EVIDENCE, I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AN OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 9 PER CENT WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED IN 1978.

+SO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS TIME TO TACKLE ITS REMIT SYSTEMATICALLY AND IN AN ORDERLY SEQUENCE.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE TERM +DIVERSIFICATION+ HAD COME TO MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. TO SOME, HE SAID, DIVERSIFICATION MEANT A HEAVEN-SENT OPPORTUNITY FOR REQUIRING AN INERT BUREAUCRACY TO HEED THE CASE FOR THEIR PET IDEAS. TO OTHERS, DIVERSIFICATION HOPEFULLY MEANT THE SUBSIDISATION OF CERTAIN COST-INPUTS FOR CERTAIN INDUSTRIES OR, IN ITS MOST EXTREME FORM, FOR ALL INDUSTRIES AND REGARDLESS OF THE INEVITABLE FISCAL AND OTHER CONSEQUENCES.

HE CONTINUED: +FORTUNATELY, IT IS NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL. THE FACT IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN OUR ECONOMY IS DETERMINED BY OUR PHILOSOPHY OF POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM. THAT IS TO SAY, WE TAKE THE VIEW THAT ATTEMPTS TO GUIDE OR OTHERWISE INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES WILL TEND TO DAMAGE THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY.

+I SEE NO PROSPECT OF OUR MODIFYING THAT PHILOSOPHY. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT EVEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RECOGNISE CERTAIN QUITE SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES WHICH IT IS EITHER MORE CONVENIENT OR MORE EFFICIENT FOR IT TO PROVIDE OR WHICH SHOULD BE PROVIDED, AS A MATTER OF DELIBERATE POLICY, AS A CHARGE TO PUBLIC FUNDS. BUT BEYOND THESE OBLIGATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH IS TO FACILITATE, OR AT LEAST TO AVOID FRUSTRATING, THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES.+

SO IT WAS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS LONG ESTABLISHED AND WELL TRIED PHILOSOPHY, DETERMINED IN PART - BUT ONLY IN PART - BY THE NATURE OF THIS ECONOMY, THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S REMIT WAS WRITTEN, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

1,200-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR TUEN MUN

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO DEVELOP A LARGE AREA IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN TO PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE 1,200-BED TUEN MUN DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL, OCCUPYING AN AREA OF 12 HECTARES, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1983.

THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. PETER NG, TODAY DESCRIBED THE DISTRICT HOSPITAL AS A BIG STEP FORWARD IN PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TOWN AND THE WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TUEN MUN WILL BECOME A SELF-CONTAINED AND MODERN NEW TOWN FOR HALF A MILLION PEOPLE BY 1985, MR. NG SAID.

ENGINEERING WORK ON PART OF THE AREA WILL START AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND SITE FORMATION WORKS WILL TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TO FACILITATE THE WORKS ON THE PROJECTS, MR. NG SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESUME A TOTAL OF 116,485.5 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND 9,533.3 SQUARE METRES OF BUILDING LAND. TWO MONTHS' NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

THE RESUMPTION WILL INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF 52 TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES OCCUPIED BY 38 FAMILIES. OF THE 52 STRUCTURES, 18 ARE ON CROWN LAND.

IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF 271 OTHER TEMPORARY STRUCTURES INCLUDING SHOPS, WORKSHOPS, PIGSTIES, CHICKEN AND DUCK SHEDS WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED.

MR. NG SAID: +DEPENDING ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY, DISPLACED FAMILIES WILL BE OFFERED EITHER PUBLIC HOUSING OR TEMPORARY PUBLIC HOUSING IN TUEN MUN.

+GENUINE CULTIVATOR FAMILIES MAY OPT FOR A RESITE TOGETHER WITH AN EX-GRATIA REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE OF \$5,000, BUT WILL FORFEIT THEIR PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.+

OWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL AND BUILDING LAND WILL BE OFFERED LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR CASH COMPENSATION, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 4 -

DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAW TO UPDATE THE DEFINITION OF CANNABIS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTROL OF THE DRUG IN HONG KONG.

THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEED FOR A NEW LEGAL DEFINITION OF CANNABIS HAS BEEN GENERATED BY NEW SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS ABOUT THE DRUG.

THE PRESENT DEFINITION OF CANNABIS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE, WAS MADE AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS THOUGHT THAT ONLY THE FRUITS, FLOWERS AND SEEDS OF THE PLANT CONTAINED THE HALLUCINOGENIC SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL.

HOWEVER, IT HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL IS NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE ENTIRE PLANT. THEREFORE, THE EXISTING DEFINITION HAS BECOME INADEQUATE AND GIVEN RISE TO DIFFICULTIES IN PROSECUTING CASES INVOLVING CANNABIS.

IN ADDITION, IT HAS ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL AND SIMILAR SUBSTANCES CAN ACTUALLY BE SYNTHESISED AND, IF THIS OCCURS, THERE ARE NO SUITABLE PROVISIONS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE AT PRESENT FOR CONTROL.

THE BILL IS THEREFORE DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DEFINITION WITH A NEW ONE WHICH EMBRACES ANY PART OF THE CANNABIS PLANT AND TO ADD PROVISIONS COVERING SYNTHETIC INGREDIENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THERE IS AS YET NO WIDESPREAD ABUSE OF CANNABIS IN HONG KONG EXCEPT AMONG A SMALL NUMBER OF BAR GIRLS AND THE LIKE, AND SOME EXPATRIATES. THE LEGAL AMENDMENT IS THEREFORE A PREVENTIVE MEASURE TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION.

HE ADDED THAT THE POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS OFFICERS TOGETHER SEIZED ABOUT 19 KILOGRAMMES OF CANNABIS LAST YEAR, OVER 90 PER CENT OF WHICH WAS IN TRANSIT THROUGH HONG KONG.

BESIDES UPDATING THE DEFINITION OF CANNABIS, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE OF CARRYING DANGEROUS DRUGS ILLEGALLY THROUGH HONG KONG.

SECTION 14(1) OF THE ORDINANCE AT PRESENT PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF ONLY THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A \$10,000 FINE FOR SUCH AN OFFENCE. THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE INADEQUATE BECAUSE ALTHOUGH THE DRUGS ARE NOT TO BE SMUGGLED INTO HONG KONG, THE NATURE OF OFFENCE IS SIMILAR TO TRAFFICKING WHICH IS PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A \$5 MILLION FINE.

THE BILL THEREFORE SEEKS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A \$100,000 FINE ON INDICTMENT AND THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A \$10,000 FINE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION.

RESULTS OF TENDER FOR 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES
* * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING THE LATEST TENDER FOR 300 HONG KONG AND KOWLOON TAXI LICENCES.

A TOTAL OF 3,893 INDIVIDUAL TENDERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON APRIL 20.

THE HIGHEST TENDER WAS \$212,860 AND THE LOWEST \$2,500.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT 299 OF THE 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES WILL BE ALLOCATED TO TENDERERS OFFERING A UNIT PREMIUM OF \$206,610 AND ABOVE.

THE REMAINING TAXI LICENCE WAS DETERMINED BY A PUBLIC BALLOT EARLIER THIS MONTH BECAUSE THERE WERE THREE TENDERS EACH WITH AN IDENTICAL UNIT PREMIUM OF \$206,510 SEEKING A TOTAL OF FOUR TAXI LICENCES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TENDERERS WHO OFFERED A UNIT PREMIUM OF UNDER \$206,510 WERE UNSUCCESSFUL BUT THEY COULD TRY AGAIN WHEN URBAN TAXI LICENCES WERE NEXT OFFERED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OVER 170 FIREMEN PROMOTED OR GIVEN ACTING APPOINTMENTS
* * * * *

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THE PROMOTIONS AND ACTING APPOINTMENTS OF OVER 170 RANK AND FILE OFFICERS TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

OF THESE, SEVEN WERE PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL FIREMEN AND 38 TO SENIOR FIREMEN. ANOTHER 60 WERE MADE ACTING SENIOR FIREMEN AND 68 AS ACTING PRINCIPAL FIREMEN.

THEY RECEIVED THEIR LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

COMMENTING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SUCH A LARGE GROUP OF OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT GOT PROMOTED AND GIVEN ACTING APPOINTMENTS AT ONE TIME.

+IN FACT, THIS HAS RESULTED FROM A TRIAL SCHEME WHEREBY EXPERIENCED PRINCIPAL FIREMEN REPLACE STATION OFFICERS AS THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CERTAIN MAJOR FIRE APPLIANCES, INCLUDING SNORKEL, EMERGENCY TENDER AND EXTRA HEAVY PUMP, SO AS TO IMPROVE THE COMMAND STRUCTURE AND TO PROVIDE BETTER PROMOTION IN THE FIREMEN'S GRADE,+ HE SAID.

THE SCHEME HAS BEEN IN FORCE SINCE 1975 AND PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN RESPECT OF OPERATIONAL DUTIES AND FROM THE ACTUAL COMPETENCE AND SUPERVISORY POINTS OF VIEW.

+WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE TO MEET INCREASING PUBLIC DEMAND, PROMOTION PROSPECTS IN THE DEPARTMENT ARE EXCELLENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 6 -

REDUNDANT TEACHERS REGISTER FOR JOBS
* * * *

SOME 372 OF THE 400 TEACHERS WHO WILL BE MADE REDUNDANT FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF CLASSES IN UNDER-USED SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOLS NEXT SEPTEMBER ARE SEEKING ALTERNATIVE JOBS THROUGH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PLACEMENT SERVICE.

THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE SERVICE, MR. CHAN SAI-BUN, SAID TODAY THAT THE 372 HAD REGISTERED FOR ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PAST FIVE DAYS.

MR. CHAN SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO PLACE THE TEACHERS IN OTHER SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CLASSES IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FROM THE OPENING OF NEW CLASSES IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS IN NEW TOWNS AND HOUSING ESTATES, AND IN AREAS WITH SHORTAGES OF AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES.

OTHERS COULD PROBABLY BE ABSORBED IN VACANCIES EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM NORMAL WASTAGE, SUCH AS RESIGNATIONS, RETIREMENTS AND DEATHS.

+THE PLACEMENT SERVICE WILL BEGIN REFERRING THE REGISTERED TEACHERS TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT FROM JUNE 1,+ MR. CHAN SAID.

HE EXPECTED THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE TEACHERS WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY.

MR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PLACEMENT SERVICE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND HAD FOUND POSITIONS FOR MORE THAN 750 TEACHERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CROWN LAND SALES
* * *

A MAJOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SITE AT TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD, NORTH POINT, WAS SOLD TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR \$75 MILLION AT A PUBLIC AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE P.W.D.'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL.

THE SITE, MEASURING 4,400 SQUARE METRES, WAS BOUGHT BY TAI CHEUNG FINANCE LTD. AT A REALISED PRICE OF \$17,045.45 PER SQUARE METRE.

ANOTHER RESIDENTIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL SITE, WITH AN AREA OF 530 SQUARE METRES AT PAK TIN, KOWLOON, WAS SOLD FOR \$8.4 MILLION TO CHIAP SHENG ENTERPRISE LTD.

THE LAST LOT, LOCATED AT 135, TEMPLE STREET, KOWLOON WAS SOLD FOR \$1.35 MILLION TO MR. CHU SHING-KIT. THE SITE, MEASURING 63.4 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

17

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 7 -

CONTRACT FOR A SECOND VIADUCT FOR TUEN MUN ROAD SIGNED

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$12 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND VIADUCT ON THE SECTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD AT SHAM TSENG.

THE CONTRACT, AWARDED TO KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) LTD., WAS FORMALLY SIGNED TODAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

MR. CHOI YU-LEUK, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE'S CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MR. C.P. YU AND MR. K. MACHIDA FOR THEIR COMPANY.

MR. CHOI SAID THAT FOOTINGS FOR THIS VIADUCT HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN AN EARLIER CONTRACT.

THE NEW CONTRACT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE 350-METRE VIADUCT AT SHAM TSENG VILLAGE AND ASSOCIATED EARTH AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE VIADUCT WILL BE BUILT ALONGSIDE THE ONE CONSTRUCTED DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF THE ROAD PROJECT AND WILL HAVE 11 SPANS OF 32 METRES EACH.

WORK ON THIS CONTRACT WILL BEGIN EARLY IN JUNE FOR COMPLETION BY 1979.

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

IT WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 5.5 KILOMETRES OF CARRIAGEWAY AND 1.2 KILOMETRES OF BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS ALONGSIDE THE STAGE ONE ROAD BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND SHAM TSENG VILLAGE.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS LENGTH OF THE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE SEVERAL DRAINAGE CULVERTS AND RETAINING WALLS.

THE REMAINING 10.2 KILOMETRES OF THE SECOND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE 17-KILOMETRE TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER TWO OTHER CONTRACTS FOR WHICH TENDERS WILL BE CALLED THIS SUMMER.

WORK ON TUEN MUN ROAD STAGE TWO IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPRING OF 1981.

----- 0 -----

/8

RETIREMENT OF ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE

* * * * *

THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR. W.D. LEIGHTON, WILL GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE EARLY NEXT MONTH AFTER SERVING IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR 27 YEARS.

TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR. P.E.J. DAVY, PRESENTED A FAREWELL GIFT TO MR. LEIGHTON ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE TODAY.

MR. LEIGHTON JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1951 AS A MARINE OFFICER AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR MARINE OFFICER IN 1957 AND TO PRINCIPAL MARINE OFFICER IN 1967.

HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN 1971 AND HAS ACTED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. IN 1971, HE WAS APPOINTED AN OFFICIAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

DURING HIS LONG SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT, MR. LEIGHTON HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH NUMEROUS MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE.

MR. LEIGHTON HAS ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PORT SERVICES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITIES, THE INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC CARGO HANDLING AREAS AND HOVERFERRY SERVICES AND THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES IN THE APPROACHES TO THE PORT.

IN COMMITTEE WORK, MR. LEIGHTON HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES INCLUDING THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON SHIP PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, THE SEAMEN'S TRAINING COMMITTEE, THE PILOTAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE DANGEROUS GOODS STANDING COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE ON BOATING AND YACHTING AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATIONAL AIDS.

HE ALSO REPRESENTED HONG KONG AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION PREPARATORY TECHNICAL MARITIME CONFERENCE HELD IN ITALY IN 1969.

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE, MR. LEIGHTON IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC GOLFER AND WAS THE CAPTAIN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG GOLF CLUB IN 1973-74 AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GOLF ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG IN 1975.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 9 -

FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR
* * * * *

ABOUT 115 FORMER HONG KONG PRISONERS OF WAR HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT UNDER A GOVERNMENT SCHEME ENABLING THEM TO RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED TODAY THAT ELIGIBLE WAR VICTIMS WHO WISH TO AVAIL THEMSELVES TO THIS SCHEME BUT HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION SHOULD DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT LEE GARDENS, AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREAS OR AT DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

UNDER THE SCHEME, MEDICAL BENEFITS ARE EXTENDED TO WIVES OR HUSBANDS OF THOSE ELIGIBLE WHO INCLUDE FORMER MEMBERS OF VARIOUS FORCES IMPRISONED OR INTERNED DURING THE BATTLE FOR HONG KONG OR DURING THE SUBSEQUENT ENEMY OCCUPATION.

AN ELIGIBLE PERSON MAY RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF ANY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL OR AT A GOVERNMENT CLINIC. IF HOSPITAL IN-PATIENT TREATMENT IS NECESSARY, THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR TREATMENT, BUT MAINTENANCE FEES WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE SAME RATE AS THOSE APPLICABLE TO CIVIL SERVANTS.

PERSONS ACCEPTED AS BEING ENTITLED TO BENEFIT UNDER THE SCHEME ARE ISSUED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WHICH THEY MUST PRESENT WHEN ATTENDING A GOVERNMENT CLINIC OR HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

WHEN THE SCHEME FIRST CAME INTO OPERATION, ELIGIBLE PERSONS WERE ENTITLED TO CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT OF HOSPITAL AND RELATED EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL 1, 1977 AND THE TIME OF THEIR REGISTRATION WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

NOW THAT THE SCHEME HAS BEEN OPERATING SMOOTHLY FOR OVER NINE MONTHS AND THERE IS NO BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS AWAITING PROCESSING, CLAIMS FOR SUCH REIMBURSEMENT WILL NO LONGER BE ENTERTAINED IN FUTURE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

- 10 -

AVIARY FOR KOWLOON PARK
* * * * *

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY INVITED TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AVIARY IN KOWLOON PARK.

THE AVIARY WILL BE BUILT ON A 914 SQUARE METRE SITE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARK.

MR. THOMAS KU, P.W.D.'S SENIOR ARCHITECT, SAID THAT WORK WOULD BEGIN IN JULY AND TAKE ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

+THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF A SUNKEN AVIARY SURROUNDED WITH VIEWING WALKWAY COVERED WITH CREEPERS,+ HE SAID.

+OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE A CHESS GARDEN AT THE FOOT OF THE EXISTING SLOPE WITH WATER WALLS, PLANTS AND TREES BEING INCORPORATED TO GIVE CONTRAST TO THE AVIARY.+

MR. KU EMPHASISED THAT THE PROVISION OF AN AVIARY IN KOWLOON PARK WAS TO SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING AVIARIES IN THE BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN FOR THE EXHIBITION OF PARTICULAR SPECIES OF BIRDS, SUCH AS PARROTS, COKATOOS AND MACAWS.

+THIS AVIARY IS SUNKEN TO SUIT THE EYE LEVEL OF VIEWERS,+ HE POINTED OUT. +IT HAS A FREE FORM SHAPE WITH ENCLOSING MESH SUSPENDED FROM CABLE HELD UP BY VERTICAL CANTILEVERED POSTS SET OUTSIDE THE VIEWING WALKWAY.+

SUCH A SYSTEM ALLOWS THE BIRDS TO BE SEEN WITHOUT VISUAL OBSTRUCTION, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUBSTITUTE RAILWAY AREA PLAN
* * * * *

AN AMENDMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO THE RAILWAY AREA PLAN FOR THE PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO LAI CHI KOK BAY SECTION OF THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

THE +RAILWAY AREA+ IS THE AREA WITHIN WHICH LAND MAY BE RESUMED OR EASEMENTS IN, UNDER OR OVER LAND MAY BE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AND INCIDENTAL TO THE RAILWAY.

A SUBSTITUTE PLAN SHOWING THE AMENDMENT HAS BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE LAND OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

THE PLAN INCORPORATES A MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO THE RAILWAY AREA IN THE VICINITY OF 769-769A NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK.

COPIES OF THE SUBSTITUTE PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED FREE OF CHARGE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG- THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 19TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, OR AT ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1978

- 11 -

MR. JOHN TODD ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, LEFT HONG KONG TODAY TO TAKE HIS ANNUAL LEAVE.

DURING HIS LEAVE, MR. AKERS-JONES WILL ATTEND THE FIFA CONGRESS IN ARGENTINA IN HIS CAPACITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

HIS DEPUTY, MR. JOHN TODD, WILL ACT AS SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES UNTIL MR. AKERS-JONES RETURNS EARLY IN JULY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS

THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE 10TH TERM OF THE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS TODAY PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

THE GROUP LED BY THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MADAM CHAN LAI-LING AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, MR. LUI FOOK-HONG AND MR. CHOW YIN-SUM, HELD AN HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH MR. CHUI AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE MEETING, MADAM CHAN THANKED MR. CHUI FOR THE INVALUABLE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL. SHE THEN MADE A BRIEF REPORT ON THIS YEAR'S WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

IN REPLY, MR. CHUI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GOOD WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE WISH TO MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -