



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1975

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1975

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NEW RAIL STATION 'A FINE EXAMPLE' OF BUILDERS' ABILITY

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TODAY OFFICIALLY OPENED THE MASSIVE \$149 MILLION HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS COMPLEX.

THE COMPLEX -- ONE OF THE BIGGEST DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTION JOBS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT -- WILL REPLACE THE 65-YEAR-OLD RAILWAY STATION AT TSIM SHA TSUI AND WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 10,000 PASSENGERS AN HOUR AND UP TO 5,000 TONS OF FREIGHT PER DAY.

IN HIS OPENING SPEECH, THE ACTING GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE TERMINUS WAS MORE THAN A RAILWAY STATION. IT WOULD BE A FOCAL POINT FOR BOTH TRANSPORT SERVICES IN KOWLOON AND FOR THE SERVICE OF CHINA'S EXPORT TRADE TO HONG KONG.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS, HE SAID, WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEYS FROM THE TERMINUS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS -- BY A FERRY SERVICE FROM A NEARBY PIER TO HONG KONG ISLAND, BY BUSES RUNNING FROM AN ADJOINING BUS STATION TO THE ISLAND AND TO ALL PARTS OF KOWLOON AND, IN DUE COURSE, FROM AN UNDERGROUND STATION WITHIN CLOSE REACH.

PROVISION HAD ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THE TRANS-SHIPMENT OF GOODS ARRIVING BY RAIL TO ROAD TRANSPORT OR TO THE NEARBY WHARVES. EXTENSIVE WAREHOUSING FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND COMMERCIAL CONCERNS WERE ALSO AVAILABLE.

+ALL THESE LINKED FACILITIES WILL BE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE GROWTH IN GOODS AND PASSENGER TRAFFIC WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE GENERATED BY FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND BY THE EXPANSION OF OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

+IN PARTICULAR,+ HE ADDED, +I HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE PATTERN OF OUR TRADE WITH CHINA WILL MAKE IT ESSENTIAL FOR THE KCR TO BE DOUBLE TRACKED ALL THE WAY TO LO WU.+

SIR DENYS DESCRIBED THE COMPLEX AS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE ABILITY OF HONG KONG'S BUILDERS TO DERIVE THE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS FROM A LIMITED SITE AND TO CONSTRUCT IN A WAY WHICH WAS PLEASING TO THE EYE AND PRACTICAL.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS KCR PASSENGER TRAFFIC HAD QUADRUPLD TO A TOTAL OF 14 MILLION A YEAR AND GOODS TRAFFIC GROWN BY ABOUT NINE TIMES TO 1.2 MILLION TONS ANNUALLY. THE LARGER AND BETTER EQUIPPED HUNG HOM TERMINUS, HE SAID, WOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING NOT ONLY THE PRESENT VOLUME OF TRAFFIC BUT ALSO THE GREATER VOLUME EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE.

/SIR DENYS

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SIR DENYS PAID WARM TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPLEX. IN PARTICULAR, HE COMPLIMENTED THE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND ITS CONSULTANTS, THE CONTRACTORS, AND THE MANAGER AND STAFF OF THE KCR.

EARLIER, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, GAVE A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY SPEECH IN WHICH HE GAVE AN IDEA OF THE EXTENT OF WORK INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUNDATIONS, HE SAID, INVOLVED THE SINKING OF 374 CAISSONS TO A TOTAL LENGTH OF 32,000 FT. AND THE DRIVING OF 2,200 PILES. THE CONSTRUCTION ALSO INVOLVED THE PREPARATION AND ASSEMBLING OF 14,000 TONS OF STEEL REINFORCEMENT, THE PLACING OF 144,000 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE AND THE LAYING OF 9-1/2 MILES OF RAILWAY TRACK.

+THESE FIGURES WILL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THE TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW, TECHNICAL SKILLS, AND HARD WORK THAT HAS GONE INTO THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

THE COMPLEX ITSELF STANDS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON RECLAIMED LAND AND AN IMPORTANT FEATURE IS THAT IT ENABLES BETTER LAND UTILISATION BY RELEASING FOR REDEVELOPMENT A LARGE TRACT OF LAND NOW TAKEN UP BY THE PRESENT ALIGNMENT OF THE RAILWAY ALONG THE CHATHAM ROAD AREA TO THE OLD TSIM SHA TSUI STATION.

THE MAIN STRUCTURAL FEATURE OF THE TERMINUS IS A MASSIVE PODIUM ON WHICH STAND THE PASSENGER STATION BUILDING, A SEVEN-DECK CAR PARK AND THE BUS STATION. BELOW ARE THE TRACKS AND PLATFORMS. THE CENTRE OF THE PODIUM CONTAINS A PASSENGER CIRCULATING AREA, BOOKING OFFICES, WAITING ROOMS, SHOPS, RESTAURANTS AND RAILWAY OFFICES.

THE CIRCULATING AREA IS CONNECTED TO THE PLATFORMS BELOW BY ESCALATORS AND STAIRS FOR PASSENGERS AND BY LIFTS FOR LUGGAGE. PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR ESCALATOR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PASSENGER STATION AND AN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE.

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NEW CHARGING SYSTEM FOR GOVERNMENT CAR PARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED CHANGES IN THE CAR PARK FEE STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD EFFECT AN OVERALL LOWERING OF CHARGES AT ALL GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS.

THEY WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 30 (SUNDAY) TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE EIGHTH GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AT THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS COMPLEX, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONE OF THE CHANGES, HE SAID, IS THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SYSTEM WHEREBY THE CAR PARKS ARE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE GROUPS CHARGING DIFFERENTIAL RATES ACCORDING TO THE DEMAND AT THEIR LOCATIONS.

THE OTHERS INCLUDE RE-INTRODUCING A FLAT HOURLY RATE THROUGHOUT THE NORMAL-RATE PERIOD, REDUCING THE MONTHLY TICKET FEE, AND ADVANCING THE START OF THE CHEAP-RATE PERIOD, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE CHANGES WERE BEING INTRODUCED TO ENSURE GREATER UTILISATION OF THE CAR PARKS WITHOUT LOSS IN TOTAL REVENUE WHILE AVOIDING TOO MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT TO USE PRIVATE CARS DURING PEAK PERIODS.

HE SAID THE LAST REVISION IN PARKING CHARGES INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER 1974 HAD ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING SPACES FOR SHORT-TIME PARKERS BY DETERRING DAY-LONG PARKING AT THE CAR PARKS.

UNDER THE GROUPING SYSTEM, HE SAID, THE STAR FERRY, GARDEN ROAD AND MIDDLE ROAD CAR PARKS WILL BE CLASSIFIED INTO GROUP A= THE MURRAY ROAD, RUMSEY STREET, CITY HALL AND YAU MA TEI CAR PARKS INTO GROUP B= AND THE NEW HUNG HOM CAR PARK INTO GROUP C.

A FLAT HOURLY RATE, WHICH VARIES WITH EACH GROUP, WILL BE RE-INTRODUCED FOR THE NORMAL-RATE PERIOD, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING SLIDING SCALE WHEREBY THE CHARGES INCREASE IN RATE THE LONGER THE CAR IS PARKED.

IN GROUP A CAR PARKS, THE NEW CHARGE WILL BE A FLAT \$2 PER HOUR= IN GROUP B CAR PARKS, A FLAT \$1.50 PER HOUR= AND IN GROUP C CAR PARK A FLAT \$1 PER HOUR, DURING THE NORMAL-RATE PERIOD WHICH IS FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 8 A.M. TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS.

AT PRESENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE HOURLY CHARGES IN THE NORMAL-RATE PERIOD IN ALL GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS ARE \$2 FOR THE FIRST FIVE HOURS, \$3 FOR THE SIXTH TO EIGHTH HOURS, AND \$4 THEREAFTER.

/THE MONTHLY

THE MONTHLY TICKET FEE WILL BE REDUCED BY \$100 FROM \$500 TO \$400, HE SAID.

THE CHEAP-RATE PERIOD WILL START ONE HOUR EARLIER AT 6 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND TWO HOURS EARLIER AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS, EXCEPT IN THE GROUP C CAR PARK - THE ONE AT HUNG HOM - WHERE THE CHEAP-RATE PERIOD WILL APPLY ALL DAY ON SATURDAYS.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE CHEAP-RATE PERIOD AS FROM NOVEMBER 30 WILL BE FROM 6 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS TO 8 A.M. THE NEXT DAY AND FROM 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS UNTIL 8 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MONDAY, AS WELL AS ALL DAY ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE CHEAP RATE WILL REMAIN AT 50 CENTS AN HOUR WITH A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$1, HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IN CASES WHERE A CAR IS PARKED FOR A PERIOD COVERING BOTH THE NORMAL-RATE AND CHEAP-RATE PERIODS, THE NORMAL RATE WILL BE CHARGED FOR THAT HOUR, WHOLLY OR PARTLY, WHICH INCLUDES THE TIME WHEN THE RATE CHANGES FROM NORMAL TO CHEAP OR VICE VERSA.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IF A CAR IS TAKEN INTO A GROUP A CAR PARK AT 5.30 P.M. AND REMOVED AT 7.30 P.M., THE NORMAL RATE OF \$2 AN HOUR WILL BE CHARGED FOR THAT HOUR FROM 5.30 P.M. TO 6.30 P.M. WHICH INCLUDES THE TIME WHEN THE RATE CHANGES AT 6 P.M. THE REMAINING PERIOD FROM 6.30 P.M. TO 7.30 P.M. WILL THEN BE CHARGED AT THE CHEAP RATE OF 50 CENTS AN HOUR. THESE GIVE A TOTAL CHARGE IN THIS CASE OF \$2.50.

SIMILARLY, THE CHARGING AT NORMAL RATE FOR THE +BRIDGING HOUR+ SPANNING BOTH PERIODS WILL ALSO APPLY IN THE MORNING WHEN THE RATE CHANGES AT 8 A.M., HE ADDED.

+THIS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE EXISTING SYSTEM WHEREBY, IF THE PARKING OF A CAR STARTS IN THE NORMAL-RATE PERIOD, IT WILL BE CHARGED AT THE NORMAL RATE FOR AS LONG AS THE CAR IS PARKED,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW HUNG HOM CAR PARK, WHICH IS EIGHT-STOREY HIGH, HAS 1,050 PARKING SPACES. ITS OPENING TO PUBLIC USE ON NOVEMBER 30 WILL BRING TO 5,568 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SPACES IN ALL GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS.

RESULT OF GOVERNMENT BONDS ISSUE SATISFACTORY
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BIDS FOR BONDS TO A TOTAL NOMINAL VALUE OF \$451 MILLION WERE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S \$250 MILLION BOND ISSUE. TENDERS OPENED AT 10 A.M. TODAY AND CLOSED AT 1 P.M.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TENDER PRICES RANGED FROM \$90 PER \$100 (THE MINIMUM PRICE) TO \$105 PER \$100.

THE ISSUE PRICE WAS FIXED AT \$99 PER \$100 AND APPLICATIONS AT PRICES ABOVE \$99 PER \$100 TALLING \$219,500,000 WILL BE ALLOTTED IN FULL.

APPLICATIONS TALLING \$36,200,000 WERE MADE AT THE ISSUE PRICE OF \$99 PER \$100. AS ONLY \$30,500,000 WORTH OF BONDS REMAINED AVAILABLE, ALLOTMENTS WILL BE MADE ON A SCALED DOWN BASIS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>AMOUNTS APPLIED FOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT ALLOTTED</u>
\$2,000,000 AND BELOW	IN FULL
\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000
\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000
\$10,000,000	\$7,900,000

COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS FIRST GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUE SINCE 1948, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS EVENING THAT HE WAS VERY SATISFIED INDEED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE MARKET HAD RESPONDED BOTH AS REGARDS THE VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS AND THE ISSUE PRICE.

AT AN ISSUE PRICE OF \$99 PER \$100 THE MATURITY YIELD IS 6.85 PER CENT (FREE OF TAX). +I REGARD THIS AS A FAIR PRICE AT WHICH TO BORROW ON THE HONG KONG MARKET,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDED, +AND IT IS VERY CLOSE TO THE PRICE WE THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR 5-YEAR MONEY WHEN WE WERE PLANNING THE ISSUE+.

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MEMBERS OF REGIMENT TO BE DECORATED

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TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT WILL RECEIVE EFFICIENCY DECORATIONS, MEDALS, AND CLASPS FROM THE DEPUTY COMMANDER LAND FORCES, MAJOR-GENERAL R.W.L. MCALISTER, ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26).

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE REGIMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, AT 6.45 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THE EVENT COVERED. CAPTAIN C.F.T. EDWARD-COLLINS, ADJUTANT OF THE REGIMENT, WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

COPIES OF A LIST OF THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TO BE DECORATED WILL BE PLACED IN THE PRESS BOXES FOR COLLECTION ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26) FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO ALLOW A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY WING WO STREET TO MORRISON STREET AND BONHAM STRAND TO THE SEAFRONT.

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SAN HUI BRIDGE TO BE WIDENED

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THE SAN HUI BRIDGE, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE ROAD SYSTEM FOR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, WILL BE WIDENED NEXT MONTH.

THIS BRIDGE CARRIES PUI TO ROAD ACROSS SAN HUI RIVER INTO TWO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREAS ON THE LEFT OF THE RIVER CHANNEL.

MR. KWEI SEE-KAN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAID TODAY THE WIDENING WORK WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE WORK COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE SPANS OF REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGE DECKS ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING BRIDGE.

CONCRETE PILES FOR SUPPORTING THE NEW BRIDGE DECKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DRIVEN IN POSITION.

MR. KWEI SAID THAT ON COMPLETION THE WIDENED BRIDGE WOULD PROVIDE A FOUR-LANE ROAD CONNECTION ACROSS THE RIVER CHANNEL TO THE TWO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE EXISTING BRIDGE, HE ADDED, WOULD REMAIN OPEN TO TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION WORK.

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RESERVOIRS 96 PER CENT FULL

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A TOTAL OF 64,743 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER WERE IN STORE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 A.M. THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 96.2 PER CENT OF THE FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS.

ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR THE TOTAL STORAGE WAS ONLY 54,116 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST RESERVOIR, HELD 49,689 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 98.4 PER CENT OF ITS FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS, AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, IT HELD 38,596 MILLION GALLONS.

TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 2,979.4 MM (117.3 IN). THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL THIS YEAR IS 2133.6 MM. (84 IN).

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