



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1976

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FLYOVERS * *

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ROAD PLANNERS ARE DRAWING UP A \$1,000 MILLION PLUS FLYOVER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME AS PART OF A MAJOR LONG TERM EFFORT TO BEAT CONGESTION IN HONG KONG.

ACCORDING TO MR. GORDON SAPSTEAD, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER OF THE P.W.D., A SERIES OF 34 OF THESE 'HIGHWAYS IN THE SKY' ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF PLANNING -- 10 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 15 IN KOWLOON AND NINE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDE A PROPOSED \$260 MILLION COMPLEX ALONG THE WATERFRONT BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND NORTH POINT-- A \$250 MILLION PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD (INCORPORATING SIX MAJOR INTERCHANGES) LINKING THE CROWDED YAU MA TEI DISTRICT WITH LAI CHI KOK-- AND A \$35 MILLION BY-PASS AT TSUEN WAN WITH THREE SEPARATE INTERCHANGES . CONNECTING KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND TEXACO ROAD.

+A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE NEW FLYOVER COMPLEXES,+ SAID MR. SAPSTEAD, +WILL BE THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS THE ROADS IN SAFETY.

+THESE WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF FOOTBRIDGES -- EITHER ATTACHED TO THE FLYOVERS OR AS A SEPARATE ENTITY -- AND SUBWAYS.+

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ALREADY 92 FOOTBRIDGES OR SUBWAYS IN USE. WORK IS EITHER UNDERWAY OR DUE TO START ON ANOTHER 65 INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, AND 13 MORE ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

MEANWHILE, 21 ADDITIONAL FLYOVERS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ARE SCHEDULED TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC THIS YEAR AND IN 1977, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD.

THEY WILL BRING TO 61 THE NUMBER OF FLYOVERS BUILT IN HONG KONG DURING THE PAST 17 YEARS AT A TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY OF SOME \$815 MILLION, AND TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SLASHING TRAFFIC QUEUES AND TRAVELLING TIMES.

THE PROBLEMS WHICH LED TO +OPERATION FLYOVER+ ARE, IF NOT ENTIRELY UNIQUE BY WORLD STANDARDS, CERTAINLY HIGHLIGHTED IN HONG KONG, WHICH HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST TRAFFIC DENSITIES.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, HONG KONG HAD 805 KILOMETRES OF ROAD (500 MILES) CARRYING 40,000 VEHICLES. TODAY, IT HAS NEARLY 1,126 KM (700 MILES) OF ROAD SUPPORTING 190,000 VEHICLES.

MUCH OF THE LAND AREA IS MOUNTAINOUS -- A CONSTANT HEADACHE FOR TRANSPORT PLANNERS -- AND THE AREA IN CONSTANT USE IS IN EFFECT REDUCED TO 104 SQUARE KILOMETRES (40 SQUARE MILES) CONCENTRATED IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICTS OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG.

DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, TRANSPORT PLANNERS HAVE SO FAR MANAGED TO KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING IN PEAK HOURS AT AN AVERAGE 16 KILOMETRES AN HOUR (10 MPH) -- A SPEED THAT WOULD BE ENVIED BY MANY OTHER LARGE CITY CENTRES.

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NOW THE IDEA IS TO RAISE THIS RATE TO 20 KPH (OVER 12 MPH) AND A THREE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN CONSULTANCY FIRM WILBUR SMITH AND ASSOCIATES IS PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SURVEY CONTAINS DIVERSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IN A WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR.

EVEN BEFORE THE SURVEY WAS STARTED, HOWEVER, EARLIER STUDIES AND PLAIN COMMONSENSE HAD INDICATED THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR TRAFFIC SEPARATION LANES, ROUTE AND QUANTITY CONTROL OF EXISTING FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT (ON WHICH 90 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S FIVE MILLION DAILY JOURNEYS ARE MADE), USE OF MORE ROAD TUNNELS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, AND THE BUILDING OF A METRO.

THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CAME UP WITH TWO BASIC INTERIM MOVES :

- * THE BUILDING OF A MOTORWAY TYPE ROUTE NETWORK WITHIN HONG KONG, NO MEAN FEAT CONSIDERING THE MAZE OF WINDING ROADS AND SKYSCRAPER BUILDINGS THROUGH WHICH SUCH CONCRETE SWATHES HAD TO BE CUT, AND
- * GRADE SEPARATION (FLYOVERS) AT AS MANY MAJOR INTERSECTIONS AS POSSIBLE.

OPERATION FLYOVER WAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT AND THE P.W.D. IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE FLYOVER SYSTEMS.

BASICALLY, GRADE SEPARATION AT MOST INTERSECTIONS IS A TWO-LEVEL AFFAIR — THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF DIRECTING TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION ALONG ITS NORMAL PATH, WHILE VEHICLES CROSSING ARE ELEVATED VIA A FLYOVER.

HOWEVER, IN SOME CASES A THIRD TUNNEL-LEVEL HAS BEEN ADDED, COMBINED WITH THE USUAL OCTOPUS-LOOKING APPROACH-ROAD AND LEAD-OFF TENTACLES.

NEARLY ALL OF THE FLYOVERS NOW BEING BUILT BY THE P.W.D. ARE OF PRESTRESSED CONSTRUCTION, A TECHNIQUE WHICH ENABLES LONGER SPANS TO BE UTILISED AND THUS REDUCES THE NUMBER OF SUPPORTING COLUMNS REQUIRED.

OVERALL, GRADE SEPARATION BY TUNNEL, FLYOVER, FOOTBRIDGE AND SUBWAY HAS BECOME A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR ENDEAVOUR IN HONG KONG, AND HAS BECOME A CORNERSTONE OF A TRAFFIC POLICY WHICH IS GRADUALLY BEATING THE CONGESTION THAT AFFLICTS MANY OTHER CITIES.

COMMENTED MR. SAPSTEAD: +THE SHEER COMPLICATION OF ERECTING FLYOVERS IN THE MIDDLE OF ALREADY CONGESTED TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR NUISANCE TO BUILDER AND MOTORISTS ALIKE, BUT NOW AT LEAST SOME OF THE REWARDS OF PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION ARE BEGINNING TO BE REAPED.+

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YOUTH VOLUNTEERS PRAISED FOR
DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

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THE GENUINE CONCERN AND PUBLIC SPIRIT OF THE 500 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO ASSISTED IN THE RELIEF WORK FOR THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE HAVE WON NOT ONLY THE APPRECIATION OF THE VICTIMS BUT ALSO THE ADMIRATION OF ALL THE KAIFONGS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, AT THE TEA PARTY GIVEN TO THE VOLUNTEERS AS A GESTURE OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

MR. LEE HOPED THAT THEIR +QUICK RESPONSE, CIVIC-MINDEDNESS, ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO COMMUNITY SERVICE+ WOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT VOLUNTEER WORK COULD HELP THE MIND AND CHARACTER OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO MATURE. IT COULD ALSO MAKE THEM MORE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

+THROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN VOLUNTEER WORK, YOUNG PARTICIPANTS, APART FROM HAVING A GOOD TIME, WILL ALSO ENRICH THEIR EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS,+ MR. LEE SAID.

AFTER THE FIRE BROKE OUT LAST MONTH, THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER (EASTERN) IMMEDIATELY MOBILISED THE VOLUNTEERS TO LOOK AFTER THE VICTIMS. HE ALSO CO-ORDINATED AND DISTRIBUTED WORK TO THEM, INCLUDING THE SORTING OUT OF USED CLOTHES DONATED BY THE PUBLIC AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND RELIEF MONEY.

THE YOUNGSTERS ALSO HELPED TO LOCATE SCHOOL PLACES FOR STUDENTS AND ORGANISED GAMES FOR CHILDREN BRINGING THEM SOME LIGHT MOMENTS IN THE MIDST OF TURMOIL AND DISTURBANCES.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS 12 COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS POSTED TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL SUPPORT, NEIGHBOURHOOD FRIENDLINESS AND PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

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KOWLOON CITY ATHLETIC MEET

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THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (KOWLOON), MR. MICHAEL SZE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 2ND KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ATHLETIC MEET TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT 9.00 A.M. AT THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE ATHLETIC MEET IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE C.D.O. (KOWLOON CITY), THE KOWLOON CITY YOUTH COUNCIL AND THE RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MORE THAN 1,600 PARTICIPANTS WILL COMPETE IN ABOUT 80 EVENTS.

THE ATHLETIC MEET WILL CONTINUE ON THE TWO FOLLOWING SUNDAYS, MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND ADMISSION IS FREE.

ALSO SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE TOMORROW IS THE FINAL OF THE WING ON CUP MINI-SOCCER TOURNAMENT.

THE MATCH WILL BEGIN AT 3.00 P.M. AT THE SOUTHERN PLAYGROUND, WANCHAI.

THE TOURNAMENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE C.D.O. (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) AND THE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE WING ON COMPANY.

AIMED AT AROUSING THE INTERESTS OF YOUTHS IN SPORTS, THE TOURNAMENT HAS ATTRACTED A TOTAL OF 25 TEAMS MADE UP MOSTLY OF OFFICE WORKERS AND STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

MR. CHENG KAM-CHING, ASSISTANT CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 5.30 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS: MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE EVENTS.

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SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS SECTORS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

THE SURVEY COVERS ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING, IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, BANKING AND INSURANCE, AS WELL AS OTHER SELECTED TRADES AND SERVICES.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL INDICATE CHANGES IN THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION SINCE DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

SURVEY CARDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOME 40,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. WHILE LARGER ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE SURVEYED FULLY, SMALL CONCERNS IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED, WILL BE SELECTED ON A RANDOM SAMPLING BASIS.

ON RECEIPT OF SURVEY CARDS, MANAGERMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS ARE ASKED TO FILL IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES, AND TO RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IN THE POSTAGE-PAID REPLY ENVELOPE ATTACHED. THE FIGURES SHOULD RELATE TO THE DATE INDICATED ON THE SURVEY CARD.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO MANAGERMENTS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE SURVEY.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, AND WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR COMPILATION OF STATISTICAL TABLES.

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