



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1978

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GREEN PAPER PROPOSALS ON EDUCATION ARE CONSTRUCTIVE, SAYS TOPLEY  
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE FORMAL TIME LIMIT WAS THE END OF FEBRUARY FOR SENDING IN COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, LETTERS WERE STILL COMING IN.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR. TOPLEY SAID THERE HAD BEEN ALREADY ABOUT 100 FORMAL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS.

APART FROM DIRECT COMMENTS SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES THERE HAD BEEN A STRONG REACTION TO THE GREEN PAPER, PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN QUARTERS, HE NOTED.

MR. TOPLEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE GREEN PAPER WAS LAUNCHED, AFTER CAREFUL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED THAT SOMEONE WOULD READ IT +AS A WHOLE,+ AND PUT FORWARD NEW ILLUMINATING FACTS, BETTER IDEAS.

+WELL, WE ARE GOING THROUGH NOW THE ASSEMBLED COMMENTS LOOKING FOR JUST THAT,+ HE SAID.

+I HAVE BEEN READING SOME OF THE FORMAL WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER AND I ALSO RE-READ THE GREEN PAPER ITSELF, I MUST SAY WITHOUT ANY SHAME OR EMBARRASSMENT. A GREAT DEAL OF IT HAS NOT FIGURED IN THE DEBATE SO FAR. THE DEBATE HAS SETTLED ON ONE OR TWO ISSUES IMPORTANT IN THEMSELVES BUT NOT CENTRAL TO THE ACTUAL GREEN PAPER NOR, I BELIEVE, FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG EDUCATION.

+PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER ARE, I BELIEVE, CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS AND INTENDED TO LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE AND EVEN CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE USUALLY CREATES PROBLEMS FOR SOMEONE.

+THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION,+ HE SAID, +BUT THAT WHICH HAS BEEN MOST IN PUBLIC VIEW HAVE BEEN DOGMATIC AND SOMETIMES DRAMATIC REACTIONS, BURNING OF THE GREEN PAPER AND SO ON.

+WE HAD HOPED THAT THE DEBATE OF THE ISSUES OF THE GREEN PAPER WOULD BE ITSELF EDUCATIONAL.

+IN ADDITION, THE CONCENTRATION ON CERTAIN ISSUES, NOTABLY THE LENGTH OF THE COURSE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATUS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE, HAS DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM OTHER ISSUES MORE OR EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND FROM WHAT THE GREEN PAPER WAS TRYING TO DO,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

THE IDEA OF A GREEN PAPER -- AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ISSUED EIGHT GREEN PAPERS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS -- IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION BEFORE GOVERNMENT POLICY IS FORMED AND FINALISED, THE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT.

/+FREEN PAPERS, .....

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+GREEN PAPERS, OF COURSE, CARRY GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS, BUT THEY ARE NOT FINAL PROPOSALS,+ HE EMPHASISED.

+AT ANY RATE,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE ACCUSED OF NOT SAYING WHAT IT THINKS. WE HAVE BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD. THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE BEEN ILL-SERVED HAD WE MADE AN ARRANGEMENT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES BEFORE PRODUCING OUR CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT. THE GREEN PAPER THEN WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED HARDLY ANY FRESH THINKING AT ALL ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE HAD THE SUPPORT OF SOME IMPORTANT CLIENTS.

+IT IS TO BE EXPECTED,+ MR. TOPLEY CONTINUED, +THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT SINGLED OUT FOR THE MORE FAVOURABLE KIND OF TREATMENT WILL BE AGGRIEVED AND WILL PROTEST. BUT THE FEAR OF PROTEST SHOULD SURELY NOT DETER THE GOVERNMENT FROM SURVEYING THE SCENE AND PUBLISHING ITS FINDINGS. TO DO LESS WOULD BE A DISSERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.+

MR. TOPLEY SAID: +WE ARE NOT YET NEAR THE END OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. THE IDEAS OF THOSE WHO HAVE WRITTEN IN HAVE STILL TO BE ANALYSED AND ASSESSED. MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD WITH THE VARIOUS BODIES CONCERNED. UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS ARE STUDYING THE VARIOUS ISSUES.+

IN DUE COURSE, A DRAFT WHITE PAPER MUST BE CONSIDERED BEFORE THE ACTUAL WHITE PAPER IS INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THERE IS MUCH TO DO THIS YEAR. FINALLY, WE ~~MUST~~ MAKE OUR MINDS UP TO GET ON WITH THE WORK BECAUSE IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE IF CONSULTATION, VERY GOOD IN ITSELF, BECAME THE ONLY END-PRODUCT OF GOVERNMENT THINKING,+ HE CONCLUDED.

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OPTIMISM ON FUTURE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

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THE PURSUIT OF DIVERSIFICATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT HONG KONG MUST WRITE OFF ITS TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.

THIS FACT WAS BROUGHT HOME SHARPLY BY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. DAVID JORDAN, AT THE OPENING TODAY OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE'S HONG KONG SECTION AND THE SHIRLEY INSTITUTE OF ENGLAND.

MR. JORDAN TOLD DELEGATES THE FACT THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WAS BEING HELD AT THIS TIME INDICATED THAT THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES DO NOT SHARE THE GLOOMY VIEW OF THEIR FUTURE THAT SOME PEOPLE TAKE.

+THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC AND THE UNHAPPY OUTCOME OF THE GENEVA DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MFA REVIVED THE CALL IN HONG KONG FOR MORE DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR ECONOMY - AND THIS MAKES SENSE.+

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS VERY DEPENDENT ON A NARROW RANGE OF INDUSTRIES. +THE MORE WE CAN BROADEN OUR INDUSTRIAL BASE THE STRONGER OUR ECONOMY WILL BE - PROVIDED THAT WE DO NOT PURSUE DIVERSIFICATION AS AN END IN ITSELF.+

MR. JORDAN ADDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO LONG-TERM ADVANTAGE IN ATTRACTING TO HONG KONG INDUSTRIES THAT WERE ONLY marginally viable. HE STRESSED ALSO THAT, +THE PURSUIT OF DIVERSIFICATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE WRITTEN OFF THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES.+

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT DESPITE THE ENORMOUS GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING CAPACITY AND EXPORTS IN RECENT YEARS, THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES STILL ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT HALF OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS AND CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ABOUT HALF OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF DIVERSIFICATION AND TRADING UP SO THAT THE STRUCTURE OF THESE INDUSTRIES HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS.

+IN TALKING TO TEXTILE PEOPLE RECENTLY, I HAVE NOT FOUND THEM PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THEIR DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN THE INDUSTRY. THERE IS PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR IT AND THEY ARE GOING TO DO IT.+

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS HAD ALWAYS ADAPTED TO CHANGING CONDITIONS AND THEY WOULD NOT GIVE UP NOW.

+THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE AND ENSURE THAT THE HONG KONG TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES WILL BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.+

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MOVES TO RESUME TEXTILES TALKS WITH NORWAY

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A TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS WITH NORWAY ON TEXTILES IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG.

HONG KONG AND NORWAY LAST HELD CONSULTATIONS IN DECEMBER 1977 WHEN THE NORWEGIANS DEMANDED AN AVERAGE OF 40 PER CENT CUTBACKS IN TEXTILE QUOTAS. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT THE TIME AND HONG KONG OFFERED — TO ALLOW TIME FOR REFLECTION AND MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO TRADE — TO UNILATERALLY LIMIT EXPORTS OF CERTAIN TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO NORWAY DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1978. THE NORWEGIANS HOWEVER DECIDED TO INTRODUCE +TEMPORARY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS+ WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1978.

IT IS HOPED THAT RESUMPTION OF CONSULTATIONS WILL LEAD TO MUTUALLY AGREED ARRANGEMENTS ON THE EXPORT OF TEXTILES TO NORWAY.

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CONTRACT FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM SIGNED

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$22 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM TO THE FOOK WAH CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY AT P.W.D. HEADQUARTERS BY MR. K.M. TSENG, P.W.D.'S CHIEF ARCHITECT, AND MR. YEUNG SHUNG-CHOI, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE 12-STOREY COMPLEX IS BEING BUILT ON A 3,000-SQUARE METRE SITE BETWEEN OI KWAN ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

IT WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING FACILITIES FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND FACILITATE OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES.

MR. TSENG SAID WORK ON THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WOULD START LATER THIS MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THAT THE \$43 MILLION STADIUM, THE FINEST OF ITS KIND IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, WOULD PROVIDE A NEW MAJOR SPORTING CENTRE FOR HONG KONG'S YOUNG SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN.

+THE STADIUM WILL HAVE FACILITIES FOR JUST ABOUT EVERY SPORT -- FROM TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON TO ATHLETIC AND GYMNASTIC EVENTS,+ MR. TSENG POINTED OUT.

+IN ADDITION TO TRAINING ROOMS, LECTURE AND COMMITTEE ROOMS, THERE WILL BE A 40-ROOM HOSTEL, WITH CANTEEN FACILITIES, TO ACCOMMODATE VISITING TEAMS.+

MR. TSENG SAID ONE OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE COMPLEX WOULD BE A LARGE MULTI-PURPOSE STADIUM WITH A SEATING CAPACITY OF ABOUT 3,500 SPECTATORS.

THE STADIUM WOULD HAVE A CENTRAL ARENA OF ABOUT 290 SQUARE METRES.

+THE HOSTEL WILL OCCUPY THE UPPER FLOORS WHILE THE LOWER FLOORS WILL PROVIDE SUCH FACILITIES AS WARM-UP GYMS, TABLE TENNIS PRACTISING HALLS, CHANGING ROOMS AND SHOWERS, AS WELL AS CONFERENCE ROOMS,+ HE SAID.

IN THE BASEMENT WILL BE THREE SQUASH COURTS AND A MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS AND GAMES HALL.

THE STADIUM, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT.

THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS CONTRIBUTED \$5.1 MILLION TOWARDS THE COST OF THE PROJECT.

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BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 112 MAIN STREET, AP LEI CHAU TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION AND BUILDING NO. 114 IN THE SAME STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE 3-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS. RECENT INSPECTIONS HAD SHOWN THAT FRESH MOVEMENT HAD OCCURRED TO THE EXPOSED PARTY WALL OF NO. 112 MAIN STREET AND THE FRONT WALL OF THE SAME BUILDING HAD ALSO SHOWN SIGNS OF FURTHER OUTWARD MOVEMENT.

AS THERE IS A RISK OF A COLLAPSE OF NO. 112 MAIN STREET, IT IS NECESSARY TO CLOSE AND DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING. THE REMAINING ADJOINING BUILDING AT NO. 114 MAIN STREET WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE DEMOLISHED SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY TO SURVIVE DUE TO THE WEAKNESSES ALREADY APPARENT IN THE BRICK WORK.

ACCORDINGLY NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON MARCH 21 1978 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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DUKE OF KENT TO ATTEND LUNCHEON  
WITH HK GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF HRH THE DUKE OF KENT'S PROGRAMME FOR TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) :

- 9:30 A.M.      THIRD VISIT TO THE BRITISH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION, HUNG HOM.  
(ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE STATION MASTER'S OFFICE AT THE STATION CONCOURSE BEFORE 9:15 A.M.)
- 12:45 P.M.     ATTEND LUNCHEON WITH HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THE HILTON HOTEL.  
(ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES MUST ASSEMBLE AT THE FIXED PRESS POSITION NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL BEFORE 12:30 P.M.)
- 8 P.M.         ATTEND UMEICO DINNER AT THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL.  
(ACCREDITED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE AT THE FIXED PRESS POSITION IN THE LOBBY OF THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL NEAR THE WEST ENTRANCE BEFORE 7:45 P.M.)

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO ATTEND OPENING OF NURSERY  
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHIU YANG NURSERY AT FUNG LOK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 157-163, WING LOK STREET, CENTRAL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 3 P.M.

THE NURSERY, RUN BY THE CHIU YANG ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG WITH GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO FINANCE ITS CAPITAL COST, IS THE SECOND NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND SELF-SUPPORTING CHILD CARE CENTRE IN HONG KONG.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN LAI CHI KOK  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY (MARCH 11), 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE SLIP ROAD THAT LINKS THE UNNAMED ROAD FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC WITH THE UNNAMED ROAD FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC UNDER THE LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS AT ANY TIME ON THIS ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTIONS WILL ALSO BE IMPOSED ON THE WHOLE LENGTH OF MEI LAI ROAD BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT DAILY.

FURTHERMORE A U-TURN BAN WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE CENTRAL DIVIDER IN MEI LAI ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION OF THE UNNAMED ROAD FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THESE AREAS TO ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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