



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1977

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TUNNELLING BEGINS ON NEW  
+GATEWAY TO SOUTH HONG KONG ISLAND+  
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THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD SAID TODAY THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WOULD PROVIDE A VITAL NEW GATEWAY TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND FURTHER STIMULATE THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE AREA.

SPEAKING AT A GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY MARKING THE START OF TUNNELLING WORKS FOR THE \$370 MILLION PROJECT, HE SAID THE TUNNEL SHOULD OPEN UP NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ABERDEEN, WITH QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO THE BUSINESS HEART OF HONG KONG.

+DURING THE PAST DECADE,+ HE SAID, +WE HAVE SEEN MANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND SUCH AS THE LARGE HOUSING ESTATES AT WAH FU AND ABERDEEN, THE GROWTH OF FACTORIES AT WONG CHUK HANG AND RECENTLY THE OCEAN PARK.

+ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS GENERATE RAPID TRAFFIC GROWTH WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED BY THE EXISTING ROAD SYSTEM. AND BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT TERRAIN, FURTHER WIDENING OF STUBBS ROAD, WONG NEI CHONG ROAD OR POKFULAM ROAD WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICALLY POSSIBLE.+

THE SOLUTION, HE SAID, WAS THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL -- ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST AMBITIOUS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+WHEN IT IS COMPLETED IN 1980 THIS HIGH CAPACITY ROAD LINK WILL ENABLE MOTORISTS TO TRAVEL FROM ONE SIDE OF THE ISLAND TO THE OTHER IN A MATTER OF TEN MINUTES,+ HE SAID.

THE TUNNEL -- THE FIRST TO BE DRIVEN ON HONG KONG ISLAND -- WOULD RUN NEARLY TWO KILOMETRES THROUGH THE HEART OF MIDDLE GAP BETWEEN THE PEAKS OF MOUNT CAMERON AND MOUNT NICHOLSON.

+IT WILL HAVE TWO TUBES, EACH ACCOMMODATING TWO LANE, AND WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 2,400 VEHICLES IN EACH DIRECTION IN AN HOUR,+ SAID MR. STÉAD.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TUNNEL, WORK IS ALSO UNDERWAY ON THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER EXTENSION WHICH WILL LINK UP THE NORTHERN PORTAL OF THE TUNNEL NEAR THE HAPPY VALLEY RACE COURSE WITH THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE WANCHAI WATERFRONT ROAD SYSTEM.

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+IN THE SOUTH, THE TUNNEL WILL LINK UP WITH WONG CHUK HANG ROAD WITH A THREE-LEVEL INTERCHANGE AT THE ROAD JUNCTION.

+THIS INTERCHANGE WILL FORM THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER CONTRACT TO COMMENCE NEXT YEAR,+ MR. STEAD SAID.

THE MAIN CONTRACT OF ABOUT \$184 MILLION FOR THE TUNNEL'S CONSTRUCTION WAS AWARDED BY THE P.W.D. LAST WEEK TO ABERDEEN TUNNEL JOINT VENTURE -- A NEWLY FORMED CONSORTIUM OF FOUR FIRMS REPRESENTING FRANCE, HONG KONG, SWEDEN AND WEST GERMANY.

THEY ARE SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'ENTREPRISES DE DRAGAGES ET DE TRAVAUX PUBLICS, GAMMON (HONG KONG) LTD., SVENSKA AB SENTAB, AND HOCHTIEF A.G. FUR HOCH UND TIEFBAUTEN.

MR. STEAD SAID THAT NONE OF THESE FIRMS WERE NEW TO HONG KONG. +THEY HAVE ALL, EITHER SINGLY OR IN OTHER CONSORTIA, UNDERTAKEN VARIOUS MAJOR ENGINEERING PROJECTS IN HONG KONG, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL IMPLEMENT THIS CONTRACT TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AND WITH EQUAL SUCCESS.+

THE HONG KONG BRANCH MANAGER OF DRAGAGES, MR. P. HAMON, POINTED OUT THAT BETWEEN THEM THE MEMBERS OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL JOINT VENTURE HAD A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT TUNNELLING CONTRACTS IN HONG KONG.

DRAGAGES HAD DRIVEN BOTH THE LION ROCK TUNNELS, AND SENTAB/GAMMON THE PLOVER COVE SCHEME TUNNELS. HOCHTIEF HAD JOINED THESE COMPANIES IN A JOINT VENTURE OF THE SAME FOUR PARTNERS AS THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL JOINT VENTURE TO DO THE TUNNELLING FOR THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME. THE CONSORTIUM WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN TUNNELLING FOR THE MASS TRANSIT.

+THE EXPERIENCE GAINED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE VARIOUS TUNNELS WILL ENABLE THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL JOINT VENTURE TO PERFORM SUCCESSFULLY THIS NEW CONTRACT,+ HE SAID.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (A) AND (B) FOR APRIL, 1977 WERE BOTH 117, EACH BEING THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE OVERALL FOODSTUFFS INDEX REMAINED THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH FOR BOTH INDEXES (A) AND (B). INCREASES IN PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, RESTAURANT MEALS AND LIVE POULTRY WERE LARGELY OFFSET BY DECREASES IN PRICES OF FISH OF ALL KINDS, EGG AND PORK.

INCREASES OF ONE POINT EACH WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR DURABLE GOODS AND SERVICES IN BOTH INDEX (A) AND INDEX (B) OWING TO HIGHER PRICES FOR HARDWARE, IRONMONGERY, CUTLERY AND OPTICAL GOODS AND INCREASED CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

THE INDEXES FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS ROSE BY ONE POINT EACH IN INDEX (A) FOLLOWING HIGHER PRICES FOR SOME ITEMS OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERCLOTHING, TOILET REQUISITES AND FRESH FLOWERS.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING ADVANCED BY ONE POINT IN INDEX (B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER HOUSING CHARGES.

HOWEVER, THE EFFECT OF THESE INCREASES ON THE +ALL-ITEMS+ INDEX WAS SMALL.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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GOVERNOR TO GO ON LOCAL LEAVE

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THE GOVERNOR WILL TAKE LOCAL LEAVE FROM MAY 21 TO 29.

SIR DENYS ROBERTS HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR FOR THIS PERIOD.

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LAND FORMATION FOR HOUSING PROJECT IN SHA TIN  
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LAND FORMATION WORK WILL START SHORTLY IN THE HEART OF SHA TIN VALLEY TO PROVIDE SITE FOR THE FIRST STAGE OF A NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE WHICH WILL HOUSE 15,000 PERSONS.

THE LAND FORMED WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PART OF A PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR ROAD, ASSOCIATED ROAD JUNCTIONS, LOCAL ROADS, A TRUNK SEWER AND DRAINS TO SERVE THE GROWING COMMUNITY IN THE NEW TOWN.

THE LAND FORMATION, AT PAK TIN AND TAI WAI, INVOLVES THE RESUMPTION OF 76,253 SQUARE METERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND 1,051 SQUARE METERS OF PRIVATE BUILDING LAND. ONE-MONTH'S NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID THE RESUMPTION WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE LAND AVAILABLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ITS MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SHA TIN.

+SITE FORMATION WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN JULY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TWELVE MONTHS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE RESUMPTION WOULD INVOLVE 462 DOMESTIC STRUCTURES COMPRISING 431 FAMILIES, AS WELL AS 602 OTHER ANCILLARY TEMPORARY STRUCTURES.

THE FAMILIES, IF FOUND ELIGIBLE, WILL BE ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN, WHILE THOSE NOT ELIGIBLE WILL BE OFFERED SPACE IN A LICENSED AREA, ALSO IN SHA TIN, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, TREES, GRAVES, BONE POTS, PIPES, FENCES AND WELLS, AS WELL AS EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR CULTIVATORS.

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REMOTE VILLAGES HIT BY DROUGHT TO GET HELP  
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL WATER SUPPLY SERVICES TO TWO REMOTE VILLAGES ON HIGH ISLAND WHICH ARE SUFFERING FROM THE CURRENT DROUGHT.

THE VILLAGES ARE TUNG AH AND SHA KIU WHICH HAVE A COMBINED LAND POPULATION OF 170. VILLAGERS THERE DEPEND ON THE WELLS FOR WATER. THEY ARE NOW DRIED UP.

STARTING MONDAY (MAY 23), MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCH NO. 31 WILL CARRY 1,500 GALLONS OF WATER FOUR TIMES A WEEK TO THE VILLAGES WHICH WERE GIVEN THREE INFLATABLE TANKS BY THE ARMY EARLY THIS MONTH.

BOTH THESE VILLAGES ARE INACCESSIBLE BY LAND TRANSPORT AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES -- THREE TIMES A WEEK TO TUNG AH, AND ONCE A WEEK TO SHA KIU.

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TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRAM SERVICES

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TRAM SERVICES WEST OF WAN CHAI AREA WILL STOP EARLIER TOMORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING.

THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SERVICE, BEGINNING FROM 11 P.M., WILL ENABLE DIVERSION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE TRAM TRACK IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL NEAR PEDDER STREET. THE DIVERSION OF THE TRAM TRACK WILL FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PEDDER STATION.

LIMITED TRAM SERVICES WILL BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND WAN CHAI, INCLUDING HAPPY VALLEY AFTER 11 P.M.

THE LAST TRAMS TO LEAVE THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMINI FOR DESTINATIONS WEST OF WAN CHAI ARE:

SHAU KEI WAN TO WESTERN MARKET	10.10 P.M.
NORTH POINT TO WHITTY STREET	10.07 P.M.
NORTH POINT TO WESTERN MARKET	10.23 P.M.
HAPPY VALLEY TO KENNEDY TOWN	10.03 P.M.
HAPPY VALLEY TO WHITTY STREET	10.14 P.M.
HAPPY VALLEY TO WESTERN MARKET	10.30 P.M.

THE LAST TRAMS TO LEAVE THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMINI FOR DESTINATIONS EAST OF WAN CHAI ARE:-

WESTERN MARKET TO NORTH POINT	10.50 P.M.
WESTERN MARKET TO SHAU KEI WAN	10.50 P.M.
WHITTY STREET TO NORTH POINT	10.42 P.M.

NORMAL TRAM SERVICES WILL BE RESUMED ON SUNDAY (MAY 22) MORNING.

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS MOVE  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS WILL MOVE TO THE FIFTH AND SIXTH FLOORS OF GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 01 KWAN ROAD, WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY (MAY 23). THE TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL BE CHANGED TO 5-756541.

THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE WILL REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND MEZZANINE FLOOR OF NO. 2 MURRAY ROAD.

MOTORISTS SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE PARKING METER TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS SECTION WILL BE CHANGED WITH EFFECT FROM 8 A.M. ON MONDAY (MAY 23).

THE NEW NUMBERS TO DIAL ARE: 5-723246 OR 5-725623 FOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT METERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND 5-724171 OR 5-720424 FOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT METERS IN KOWLOON.

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APPLICATION FOR PART-TIME COURSES  
AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTES  
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THERE ARE THREE MORE DAYS LEFT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR PART-TIME EVENING CLASSES AT THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG AND HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

APPLICATION FOR THE COURSES, WHICH WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER, WILL CLOSE ON MONDAY (MAY 23).

A TOTAL OF 65 COURSES ARE AVAILABLE. THESE INCLUDE COURSES AT CRAFTSMAN LEVEL, OF WHICH THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IS CHINESE, AND COURSES AT TECHNICIAN LEVEL, WHICH ARE MAINLY TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

FIELDS COVERED INCLUDE CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, GENERAL STUDIES, HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, PRINTING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG AND KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AS WELL AS THE TSEUN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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