



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 12, 1973

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WIDER POWERS FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS PROPOSED

New Measure Against Drug Offenders

The Government proposes to give officers of the Preventive Service wider powers as yet another measure to act against drug offenders.

For this purpose, the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill 1973 will soon be put forward to the Legislative Council.

The Bill seeks to provide an officer not below the rank of Revenue Inspector with such powers as requiring a suspect to have his finger nails pared and his hands washed so that the nails and water can be analysed.

It will also enable the officer to require the suspect to give a specimen of his handwriting for comparison purposes.

Explaining the proposed legislation, a Government spokesman said that such powers had already been conferred on police officers not below the rank of inspector under section 54 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 134).

Although the responsibility for the enforcement of the ordinance rested mainly with the police, he said the Preventive Service also played an important role in this task.

"In order to enable the Preventive Service officers operate more effectively, it is considered desirable to accord them the same powers under section 54 as their police counterparts."

The spokesman added that this would have the advantages of speeding up the process of investigation and in reducing the number of witnesses who might be required to give evidence in any subsequent court proceedings.

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TIGHTER CONTROL OVER PRICES AT AIRPORT SHOPS

Serious View To Be Taken Of Overcharging

The Director of Civil Aviation is to be given wider powers to control prices of goods sold by shops in the airport terminal building in order to prevent overcharging.

A spokesman for the department warned today that in future "a serious view" would be taken of such incidents and may result in the termination of the tenancy of any shop guilty of overcharging.

He gave the warning when calling for tenders for 29 shop spaces in the passenger terminal building.

The shop spaces are to be let for a period of three years and are intended for the sale of such goods as radio and photographic equipment, jewellery, publications, Chinese arts and crafts, pharmaceuticals and tobacco, among others.

There are also spaces for money changers and the sale of insurance.

The spokesman said that while prospective tenderers could judge the value of the accommodation by observing the volume of business presently conducted, "this does not indicate the level of increases which can be expected over the period of the agreement."

He pointed out that about 94 per cent of the tourists visiting Hong Kong each year arrived by air and the number was steadily increasing.

/"Forecasts

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"Forecasts of traffic growth," he said, "show that over the next five years the present daily average of 7,000 arriving and departing passengers is expected to increase by approximately 15 per cent a year to over 11,000 passengers per day by the end of 1975."

These figures, he added, excluded direct transit passengers who currently averaged 1,000 a day. "A similar increase is expected in the number of these passengers."

In addition, an estimated 19,000 people visit the terminal building each day in the course of their work or to greet or say farewell to their friends, he said.

The spokesman explained that increases of this magnitude required "extensive modifications" to the terminal building and some of the areas for which tenders were now invited might require repositioning.

The tender documents require the shops to be operated on a 24-hour basis except when a reduction is approved by the Director.

The Closing date for tenders is noon February 2.

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POLYCLINIC FOR EAST KOWLOON

Construction Work To Begin Shortly

A polyclinic is to be built shortly in the eastern part of Kowloon to serve residents in the area.

The Kowloon East Polyclinic, situated at Hammer Hill Road opposite the Hong Kong School for the Deaf, will be built on an 80,000 square foot site.

Construction will be carried out in two stages.

Work on Stage I, comprising a maternal and child health centre, a chest clinic and general out-patient facilities, is expected to begin in the middle of next year and completed in 1975.

Site formation works will start in early March and take about six months to complete.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said: "The construction cost of this stage amounts to about \$3.5 million. It is met by a donation from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club."

The second stage of the polyclinic, to be built at a later date, consists mainly of a dental clinic and specialist facilities.

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PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD TO BE WIDENED

To Cope With Increasing Traffic

The section of Princess Margaret Road between the old Ho Man Tin Hill Road and Sheung Hing Street is to be widened shortly to cope with the larger volume of traffic brought about by the Cross Harbour Tunnel.

Work is expected to begin next month and will take about a year to complete.

It involves the construction of one additional lane to each side of the present two-lane dual carriageways.

Footways of 12 feet wide will also be provided on both sides of the road.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said that Princess Margaret Road is an important primary distributor and will fulfill this function to an even greater extent with the Cross Harbour Tunnel already in use.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

During Lunar New Year

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Paul Tsui, to-day reminded employers that the Lunar New Year's Day and the following day are statutory holidays for industrial workers.

This year, the Lunar New Year's Day and the second day of Lunar New Year fall on February 3 and 4.

With few exceptions, Mr. Tsui said all manual workers in industrial undertakings paid on a monthly, daily or piece-rate basis must be given two holidays on these two days.

Non-manual workers in industrial undertakings earning not more than \$700 a month would have the same right.

An employer should grant a female worker, or a worker who is a young person, another holiday on February 5 if the statutory holiday on February 4 falls on a scheduled rest day of the worker.

The two paid holidays are among the six statutory holidays in a year to which industrial workers are entitled under the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance.

The other four statutory holidays are:

- * Ching Ming Festival;
- * Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival;
- * The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival; and
- * Chinese Winter Solstice Festival.

/To qualify

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To qualify for the two paid holidays for the Lunar New Year, which are in addition to the compulsory four rest days a month under the Employment Ordinance, a worker must have worked at least 180 days during a period of 12 months, and at least 20 days in the 28 days preceding February 3.

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MORE STAFF TO HANDLE RE-ENTRY PERMIT APPLICATIONS

For Lunar New Year Period

The Immigration Department has increased its staff to cope with the expected large number of people applying for re-entry permits for the Lunar New Year period.

Announcing this today, the Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, said many local residents usually spent the Lunar New Year in Macau or China with their relatives.

More than 350,000 people went to these two places last year and he predicted that the figure for this year would likely be higher.

In order to cope with the anticipated increase, more staff has been put at the various branch offices.

Mr. Collard said the present strength would be adequate. However, he would keep the situation under close watch and might extend the working hours if necessary.

He added that he had already instructed his staff to process all applications everyday before they could go off.

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PENUMBRAL ECLIPSE OF MOON

A penumbral eclipse of the moon will be visible in Hong Kong on January 19, provided that weather conditions are favourable.

With a penumbral eclipse, the moon does not enter the complete shadow of the earth and the light reflected by the moon is not totally obscured.

"There will only be a slight decrease in the brightness of the moon during the eclipse and this may be difficult to detect by the naked eye," a Royal Observatory spokesman said.

Details of the eclipse are given below:-

Hong Kong Standard Time

Moonrise in Hong Kong	January 18	5.28 p.m.
Sunset in Hong Kong	January 18	6.02 p.m.
Moon enters penumbra	January 19	3.17 a.m.
Middle of the eclipse	January 19	5.17 a.m.
Sunrise in Hong Kong	January 19	7.05 a.m.
Moonset in Hong Kong	January 19	7.08 a.m.
Moon leaves penumbra	January 19	7.17 a.m.

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Release Time: 6.30 P.M.