



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 26, 1973

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PRISONS SERVICES TO BE FURTHER IMPROVED

Commissioner Speaks On Crime, Prisons And Public

Hong Kong's prison services are being reviewed with the aim of improving them further so that they can meet the demands of the future.

This was revealed today by the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Tom Garner, at a luncheon meeting of the Hong Kong Association of Pharmaceutical Industry.

Mr. Garner said that while research into crime was still in its infancy, his department had not been complacent and had come to grips with the problem of compiling sufficient statistical data "which will be meaningful in the years ahead."

In reviewing the planning of programmes for prisoners, he said, his department had set a course which called for a review of prison industries and its vocational training and after-care programmes.

He added: "We intend to review our nursing of sick prisoners and train more staff as nursing auxiliaries."

It was also planned, he went on, to send more prison staff abroad for further training and to gain wider experience.

One officer was already undergoing a 12 month course at Coleg Harlech in Wales and another was studying physical education at Carnegie College in Leeds, he said.

Mr. Garner stressed that prison staff must be of high calibre with humanitarian ideals and of good education to meet the challenging task of dealing with all types of offenders.

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To provide for this, he said, a 12-month training course had been initiated for new recruits last year in the Staff Training Institute.

"During training we try for as many all-rounders as possible," he said.

The present daily population of prisoners and inmates in the institutions administered by the Prisons Department, he said, was a little over 6,100.

Of these, 1,581 were being followed up in the department's after-care programme.

Mr. Garner described crime as "a sickness of society" and stressed that the public had a great role to play in helping to find a cure.

"The community has to play an important part which cannot be delegated to the Government," he said. "The community can actively work in the field of crime prevention."

He said there was a need for a close examination of community standards. This need was underscored by the amount of crime stemming from dishonesty, protection rackets, gambling, drug addiction, greed, selfishness and an inability to control one's temper.

The problem which caused the most concern in Hong Kong today, he said, was that of dealing with offenders in the 16 to 25 age group "in which it appears that the peak incidence of crime, particularly crimes of violence, occurs."

The Commissioner said the community could also take a greater interest in the welfare of prisoners by supporting the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and the Prisoners' Welfare Fund managed by the Prison Service.

The news media too, he added, could consider giving equal value to the prevention of crime and reformation of offenders as they gave to the reporting of crime.

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1973 INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CENSUS

Amending Bill To Pave Way For Survey

Amending legislation is being introduced to pave the way for a comprehensive census to be undertaken of industrial production. This relates to the year 1973.

The census will be the first of its kind in Hong Kong and aims at collecting information about employment, labour cost, materials and products, local sales and exports, investment expenditure and stocks of fixed assets.

The Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, said today the industrial statistics collected would provide "a deeper understanding" of Hong Kong's manufacturing sector to local manufacturers, overseas buyers, research agencies and intending investors.

"The industrial statistics are also required for purposes of industrial development, Government policy-making and trade negotiations," he added.

Before the census can be taken, certain changes have to be made in the existing Ordinance. This is the object of the Census (Amendment) Bill 1973, published in today's Gazette for general information.

At present, the Governor-in-Council, when directing that a census be taken, can only order the specific date on which it is to be held.

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The Bill, however, enables the Governor-in-Council to specify a census period because the data to be sought in the Industrial Production Census will relate to a period of one year rather than a specific date.

The Bill also removes a provision in the Principal Ordinance which prevents the Commissioner from taking a census in such a way that any member of the public incurs expense as a result.

Provisions are also made to make it easier for questionnaire forms to be completed and collected, as well as extending the powers of census officers to visit premises to complete questionnaire forms.

Mr. Topley explained that the Industrial Production Census would be carried out by a small number of trained full-time census supervisors.

"They will visit most of the 10,000-odd establishments to be enumerated and discuss the questionnaire forms with the management," he said.

He added that there would be a specific period within which the forms must be completed and returned, but supervisors from the department would assist managements in filling in the forms whenever necessary.

The managements would have an option either to return the completed forms to the Census and Statistics Department or to have them collected by census supervisors, said Mr. Topley.

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LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF ABERDEEN

Bridge, Stadium And Road Tunnel Planned

The Town Planning Board has amended a revised draft plan for the long term development of Aberdeen and the neighbouring island of Ap Lei Chau.

The Board considers that the previous draft plan should be amended in a number of respects, partly to meet objections and partly to take account of other necessary changes in requirements.

The amendments include a re-positioning of the bridge linking the mainland and Ap Lei Chau to give a 50 ft. clearance above high water level and a larger working harbour.

The road pattern in Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau has also been modified, partly due to the realignment of the bridge, increasing the total area required for the major roads in the district.

There has also been a revision and increase in the areas zoned for Government, institution and community uses, largely at the expense of the Green Belt zoning but other zones are also affected.

The areas zoned for other specified uses have been increased and include an additional cargo handling area along the breakwater at the western end of Shek Pai Wan.

In the same vicinity there is also an increase in the special industrial zoning which is intended to cater for the needs of the fishing industry.

The amended draft plan published in today's Gazette will be on display for three weeks until February 15 at the Public Enquiry Centre, Central Government Offices (West Wing); Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices; and the Western and Aberdeen City District Offices.

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In addition, the planning boundary for Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau has also been extended to include part of the Wong Chuk Hang Valley.

This adds some 46 acres to the area covered by the plan, and includes about 10 acres west of Shouson Hill Road for residential purposes. It also includes about 19 acres for Government, institution and community uses, the major part of which is reserved for a possible future stadium.

The remaining acreage is taken up with the main road junction and approach road for the proposed Aberdeen tunnel and Green Belt zoning.

The extension area is displayed separately for a longer period of two months, until March 25.

Any person affected by the amendment and extension plans may inform the Board of his objection to anything appearing in the plans by writing to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Public Works Department, Hong Kong.

He must set out the reasons for his objection, and any proposals of alteration if the objection would be removed by such alteration to the plan.

Copies of the plans are available at the Crown Lands & Survey Office, 19th floor, Murray Building, Hong Kong, at \$3.00 for each uncoloured copy and \$25 for each coloured one.

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PROPOSED CATTLE QUARANTINE DEPOT ON TSING YI ISLAND

The Government proposed to build a modern cattle quarantine depot at the south-east corner of Tsing Yi Island.

The depot, when completed, will handle all cattle entering Hong Kong in the foreseeable future.

Berth facilities for both cattle ships and lighters will be provided as a part of the project.

The existing lairages at Kennedy Town and Ma Tau Kok, which at present inconvenience the people living nearby will be closed.

The boundaries within which a pier and/or a reclamation is to be constructed are fully described in a Notification in today's Gazette.

The Notification calls upon people having objections to the proposed lairage or any claims of private right in the matter, to submit them in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months of the date of the Notice.

The Notification, in both English and Chinese, can also be seen on Notice Boards posted near the site.

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SIX NEW YEAR FAIRS TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT HONG KONG

Six Lunar New Year fairs will be held throughout Hong Kong this year -- one on the Island, two in Kowloon and three in the New Territories.

They are sponsored by the Urban Services Department.

In Victoria Park, the largest fair will have 581 stalls and the two in Kowloon, at Cheung Sha Wan Playground and Choi Hung Playground, will have 499 and 261 stalls respectively.

In the New Territories, the Tsuen Wan New Year fair will have 250 stalls while the Tai Po fair and the Yuen Long fair will each accommodate 150 stalls.

As is customary, flowers, potted plants and a great variety of Lunar New Year sundries will be on sale at the fairs.

Stall holders will be permitted to put up their goods for sale from Saturday (January 27). The fairs will last up to New Year's Eve.

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PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE FOR SHEUNG SHUI

The Tai Po District Office is to set up a public enquiry centre in Sheung Shui.

Work to fit-out the centre, situated at No. 24 San Fung Avenue, will begin in about two month.

When it is opened in the middle of this year, the centre will handle all kinds of enquiries from the public concerning the Tai Po District Office.

A spokesman for the Tai Po District Office said: "The centre is specially set up for Sheung Shui residents and we hope that they will make good use of it."

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SPECIAL TRAINS DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR

Special train services will be operated between February 3 and 6, the period of the Lunar New Year.

Many of these trains will run from Tsim Sha Tsui to Sha Tin or Tai Po Market only. None of them will pick up passengers at the Mong Kok Station.

Season or monthly ticket holders will be permitted to board these trains without extra charges. Additional special trains will be put into service in the late evenings if traffic warrants.

A spokesman for the Kowloon-Canton Railway today advised the public that trains going up to the New Territories would probably be full between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Those returning to Kowloon were expected to be packed between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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DEFENCE SECRETARY VISITS TROOPS

Lord Carrington, currently in Hong Kong as part of a world tour, spent today (Friday) visiting British Service units and meeting service personnel in the New Territories and Kowloon.

After calling at Headquarters British Forces, he flew by helicopter from Harcourt Road to the New Territories where he spent some time visiting border locations before lunching with the Army at Sek Kong.

He spent the afternoon with the Royal Air Force and, tomorrow morning (Saturday) will visit and lunch in HMS Tamar after giving a press conference.

Lord Carrington leaves Hong Kong early on Sunday morning for New Zealand.

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Note to Editors: Lord Carrington will hold a press conference at 10.45 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, fifth floor.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer.

Lord Carrington will leave Hong Kong from Kai Tak (civilian airport) and not R.A.F. Kai Tak at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Members of the press who wish to take pictures of his departure should be at Kai Tak not later than 7.30 a.m. A G.I.S. officer will be there to assist the press.

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CAR PARK FOR PICNIC SPOT IN N.T.

An open car and coach park is to be built shortly at the 18½ milestone, Castle Peak Road, New Territories.

It will accommodate 138 private cars and 14 coaches and will also provide spaces for motorcycles.

A bus-bay has been incorporated into the parking layout.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said that the beach at the 18½ milestone, Castle Peak Road and nearby beaches were becoming more and more popular each year.

"The provision of a car park at this location," he said, "will not only improve parking facilities in the area but also alleviate traffic congestion along this section of Castle Peak Road during weekends and holidays in the summer months."

Construction of the car park is expected to begin in March and will take about six months to complete.

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GREATER PUBLIC EXPRESSION ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Call From Information Secretary

The Secretary for Information, Mr. Jack Cater, this evening called for more public expression on government affairs so that the Government could gain a better insight of the desires and aspirations of the people of Hong Kong.

Addressing the 1973 inauguration dinner of the Hong Kong Junior Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Cater said: "There must be a reaching out of hands from both sides."

"From the administration, a new appraisal of public interest in, and concern for, their affairs. And from the public, an effort to overcome any suspicion and demonstrate their interest and concern in their community's affairs."

Mr. Cater said the public's attitude towards the process of government had changed "significantly" in recent years, and the affairs of the Government "are coming in for much closer scrutiny by those who are governed."

He welcomed this trend and felt that it should be encouraged.

While he was aware that it would not be easy to change traditions and inhibitions, especially among the older generation, he noted with pleasure that young people were more willing to speak their minds.

Mr. Cater said: "We need more such straight talk, for that way lies greater understanding."

He pledged to foster this through the machinery of the Information Secretariat which, he said, was responsible not only to inform the public of Government affairs but also to tell the Government what the people wanted.

"Our aim must be to develop the individual abilities and stimulate the joint efforts of young people for the purpose of improving social and spiritual well-being and create greater understanding," he said.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.