



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1975

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SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS BEING STUDIED

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING SETTING UP SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS TO ASSIST BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN THE COLLECTION OF MANAGEMENT FEES FROM TENANTS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLENOSE, DURING A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF 19 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF MONG KOK DISTRICT.

THE MEETING, HELD AT TAI KOK TSUI CITY DISTRICT SUB-OFFICE, WAS PART OF A VISIT THE GOVERNOR MADE TO THE DISTRICT TO SEE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA AND THE WORK OF THE M.A.C.'S.

SIR MURRAY WAS TOLD BY THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEIR COMMITTEES HAD EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES IN COLLECTING FEES FROM TENANTS AND THEY SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM WAS TO SET UP SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS.

THE GOVERNOR SAID CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO SET UP SUCH TRIBUNALS AND HE HOPED THAT THEY MIGHT COME INTO OPERATION SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

DURING THE MEETING, THE MAC REPRESENTATIVES ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER JUVENILE CRIME AND ASKED WHETHER MORE STRINGENT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING RESULTS FROM AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME AT SNA TSUI WHERE YOUNG OFFENDERS HAD BEEN UNDERGOING STRICT CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FOR SHORT PERIODS UP TO FOUR MONTHS.

RECORDS SHOWED, HE SAID, THAT YOUNG OFFENDERS DISCHARGED FROM SNA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE SELDOM DRIFTED BACK INTO CRIME. ONLY ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THOSE DISCHARGED HAD REVERTED BACK TO CRIME, HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID AN EXPERT HAD BEEN INVITED TO MAKE FURTHER STUDIES WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING THE SCHEME.

EARLIER, THE GOVERNOR INSPECTED THE ANTI-BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM AT LAI YING BUILDING IN NATHAN ROAD AND WAS BRIEFED BY MAC MEMBERS ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE BUILDING.

HE ALSO VISITED YUEN FAT BUILDING IN NELSON STREET WHERE HE MET YOUNG MEMBERS OF CLEAN YOUR CITY GROUPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT WILL BE BOXED AT GIS THIS EVENING.

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TSIM SHA TSUI PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT SCHEMES MODIFIED
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THE PEDESTRIAN PRECINCTS IN HANOI ROAD AND CORNWALL AVENUE IN TSIM SHA TSUI ARE TO BE MODIFIED FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM.

FROM NEXT MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) THE SCHEME WILL BE ADJUSTED TO ALLOW TAXIS AND PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, INCLUDING TOURIST COACHES, TO ENTER THE PRECINCTS AT ANY HOUR OF THE DAY OR NIGHT.

PRIVATE CARS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AREA AND GOODS VEHICLES DELIVERING OR PICKING UP GOODS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ONLY BETWEEN 7 P.M. AND 11 A.M. AS THEY ARE AT PRESENT.

THE REVIEW OF THE SCHEME WAS MADE FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS FROM BUSINESSMEN THAT SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS IN THE TWO STREETS ARE SUFFERING LOSSES AND ALSO BECAUSE CERTAIN UNDESIRABLE FEATURES HAVE BECOME APPARENT.

REFERRING TO THE REPORTED DROP IN BUSINESS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXPERIENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAD SHOWN THAT AFTER AN INITIAL DECLINE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE NOT USED TO THE FEELING OF SHOPS WITHOUT CARS, BUSINESS HAS REVIVED AND, IN MANY CASES, IMPROVED AS SHOPPERS HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE THE EASE OF MOVEMENT IN THE AREAS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN OF A RETURN TO THE LEVEL OF BUSINESS CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE SCHEME BEGAN AND IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO MODIFY THE SCHEME.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS ALSO BECOME APPARENT THAT CHILDREN AND YOUTHS HAVE TAKEN TO PLAYING FOOTBALL AND BADMINTON IN THE STREETS- SOME LOITERING BY YOUNG PEOPLE HAS BEEN OBSERVED AND AT NIGHT THE BENCHES ARE SLEPT ON BY VAGRANTS. FLOWERS WHICH WERE PLACED IN CONCRETE BOXES THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAVE ALSO BEEN DESTROYED, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT PROGRESS OF THE EXPERIMENT UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED AGAIN BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT HELPS KEEP DOWN
SMOG AND FUEL COSTS

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HONG KONG INDUSTRY'S FUEL BILL HAS BEEN SLASHED BY 10 PER CENT -- OR AT LEAST \$35 MILLION A YEAR -- AS A RESULT OF ADVICE FROM THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

AND WITHOUT THAT ADVICE, \$35 MILLION WORTH OF EXCESS FUEL OIL WOULD HAVE BEEN INCOMPLETELY BURNT, CAUSING HIGHER LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION, THE HEAD OF THE UNIT, MR. DAVID NEWBURY, TOLD TODAY'S LUNCHEON OF THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG.

IN COMPARISON, THE OPERATION OF THE UNIT COST LESS THAN \$2 MILLION A YEAR.

MR. NEWBURY TOLD THE LUNCHEON THAT THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN SET UP IN EARLY 1971, A FEW YEARS AFTER HONG KONG'S FIRST SMOKE ADATEMENT ADVISOR HAD BEEN APPOINTED AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT DETERMINATION THAT HONG KONG'S BURGEONING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH WOULD NOT MEAN A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SMOKE POLLUTION PROBLEM.

MR. NEWBURY SAID THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT MIGHT BE THOUGHT, HIS WORK AS AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER DID NOT CONCENTRATE ON PURSUING AND PROSECUTING FACTORIES AND RESTAURANTS FOR VIOLATING THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE. IN FACT, ONLY 20 PER CENT OF THE TIME OF HIS SMOKE INSPECTORATE WAS TAKEN UP BY WORK CONNECTED WITH PROSECUTIONS.

+BY FAR THE LARGER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TIME IS TAKEN UP IN THE PROVISION OF A FREE ADVISORY SERVICE TO INDUSTRY ON ENERGY USAGE,+ HE SAID.

+WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT OVER 4,800 FILES ON COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USERS OF FUELS. EACH OF THESE 4,800 FUEL-USERS -- OR CLIENTS, AS WE LIKE TO THINK OF THEM -- HAS, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, RECEIVED OUR PERSONAL ADVICE OR GUIDANCE ON FUEL USAGE, PROCESS CONTROL, MAINTENANCE OR CHIMNEY DESIGN.

+YOU MAY WONDER WHY WE PROVIDE SUCH A SERVICE FREE TO INDUSTRY. IT COULD BE SAID THAT SUCH ADVICE AND GUIDANCE, GIVEN BY A QUALIFIED PRIVATE CONSULTANT, WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID FOR BY INDUSTRY, AND IN THAT CASE WHY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT FOOT THE BILL?

+MY ANSWER TO THAT IS SIMPLE. EVERY BIT OF ADVICE ACCEPTED BY THE +CLIENT+ MEANS THAT FUEL IS CONSUMED MORE ECONOMICALLY, OR THAT A WASTE BY-PRODUCT WHICH FORMERLY CAUSED POLLUTION IS CAPTURED AND POSSIBLY RE-CYCLED AS SALEABLE COMMODITY.

+THIS MEANS THAT ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM -- AND THAT SURELY IS THE OBJECT OF THE GAME.+

MR. NEWBURY URGED INDUSTRIALISTS AND COMMERCIAL FUEL USERS TO CONTACT THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT (3-688954) TO GET ADVICE ON HOW TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION AND AT THE SAME TIME CUT THEIR FUEL BILLS.

JULY BANKING STATISTICS
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BANK DEPOSITS AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH STOOD AT \$34,512 MILLION CONSISTING OF \$9,205 MILLION IN DEMAND DEPOSITS, \$13,512 MILLION IN TIME DEPOSITS AND \$11,795 MILLION IN SAVINGS DEPOSITS, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE BANKING COMMISSIONER.

THE NUMBER OF BANKS AT THE END OF THE MONTH WAS 74.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE BREAKDOWN FIGURES FOR TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AS AT JULY 31, 1975 :-

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>\$ MILLION</u>
(1) DEPOSITS *	34,512
(2) AMOUNT DUE TO BANKS ABROAD	18,877
(3) OTHER LIABILITIES	<u>7,450</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>60,839</u>

<u>ASSETS</u>		
(1) CASH		592
(2) AMOUNT DUE FROM BANKS ABROAD		
(I) DEMAND AND SHORT TERM CLAIMS	17,806	
(II) TIME DEPOSITS	<u>2,041</u>	19,847
(3) LOANS AND ADVANCES :		
(I) HONG KONG	24,159	
(II) ABROAD	<u>8,751</u>	32,910
(4) INVESTMENTS :		
(I) HONG KONG	2,561	
(II) ABROAD	<u>51</u>	2,612
(5) OTHER ASSETS :		
(I) HONG KONG	3,555	
(II) ABROAD	<u>1,323</u>	4,878
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>60,839</u>

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AVERAGE LIQUIDITY DURING MONTH 48.60%

* <u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>\$ MILLION</u>
DEMAND	9,205
TIME	13,512
SAVINGS	11,795
	<u>34,512</u>
	<u>34,512</u>

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HEALTH REPORT FOR JULY

HEALTH RETURNS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY SHOW NOTABLE REDUCTIONS IN THE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

THE UPSURGE IN THE NOTIFICATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS DURING THE SPRING/SUMMER TIME OF THE YEAR HAS SUBSIDED SINCE LAST MONTH. DURING THE MONTH UNDER REVIEW, 150 CASES WERE RECORDED COMPARED WITH 228 IN JUNE AND 345 IN MAY.

REDUCTIONS IN THE INCIDENCE OF BACILLARY DYSENTERY, ENTERIC FEVER, TUBERCULOSIS AND MOST OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES WERE ALSO OBSERVED.

THERE WERE EIGHT IMPORTED CASES OF MALARIA IN JULY WHILE THE RECORDS OF POLIOMYELITIS AND DIPHTHERIA REMAINED CLEAN.

OF THE 54 DEATHS RECORDED DURING THE MONTH, 49 WERE FROM TUBERCULOSIS, TWO FROM VIRAL HEPATITIS AND THREE FROM TETANUS.

HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE FREE FROM CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES DURING THE MONTH.

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NEW CLEARWAY HOURS ALONG TONG MI ROAD SECTION

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY HOURS ALONG THE SECTION OF TONG MI ROAD BETWEEN MONG KOK ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD IN KOWLOON WILL BE REVISED AS FROM 4 P.M. ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 30).

THE NEW CLEARWAY HOURS WILL BE FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND FROM 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THESE HOURS ALONG THE SECTION OF THE ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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LOTTERY TICKET SALES CLOSE TOMORROW

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TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IS THE LAST DAY TO BUY TICKETS FOR THE SEVENTH LOTTERY AND GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO WIN A FORTUNE.

TICKET SALES WILL CLOSE AT 9 P.M. TOMORROW AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TICKET BOOTHS. DURING THE DAY TICKETS MAY ALSO BE BOUGHT FROM HEAD AND BRANCH OFFICES OF 30 BANKS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

UP TO 5 P.M. TODAY A TOTAL OF 514,000 TICKETS HAD BEEN SOLD.

THE WINNING NUMBERS WILL BE DRAWN AT 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 30) IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE BY FOUR COMMERCIAL RADIO ARTISTES -- MISS YAN WAI-YEE, MISS WONG KAR-MAN, MISS CHAN HO-YIN AND MISS MOK PUI-MAN.

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