



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975.

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TIN HAU FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS
ACTIVITIES CENTRE IN YUEN LONG AND JOSS HOUSE BAY
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THE BIRTHDAY OF TIN HAU, THE GODDESS OF HEAVEN AND PROTECTRESS OF SEAFARERS, FALLS THIS YEAR ON SUNDAY, MAY 4.

THE FESTIVAL IS ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST COLOURFUL ANNUAL EVENTS AND IS CELEBRATED BY PEOPLE FROM MANY WALKS OF LIFE.

EVERY YEAR, THE ACTIVITIES CENTRE IN YUEN LONG WITH A MAMMOTH PARADE AND IN JOSS HOUSE BAY WHERE THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS PAY HOMAGE TO THE GODDESS TIN HAU. SIMILAR EVENTS, THOUGH ON A SMALLER SCALE, ARE ALSO HELD AT THE MANY TIN HAU TEMPLES BUILT NEAR THE ENTRANCES TO FISHING HARBOURS.

A LARGE CROWD IS EXPECTED AT THE YUEN LONG PROCESSION THIS YEAR AS THE FESTIVAL FALLS ON A SUNDAY.

THE PARADE STARTS SHORTLY AFTER 11 A.M. PROCEEDING FROM THE YUEN LONG EASTERN BUS TERMINUS TO THE YUEN LONG STADIUM WHERE THE MAIN CELEBRATION WILL BE HELD.

ABOUT 3,000 VILLAGERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS WILL TAKE PART IN THE TWO-HOUR PROCESSION WHICH FEATURES LION, DRAGON AND UNICORN DANCES, ACROBATIC DISPLAY AND COLOURFUL FLOATS.

SIR YUET-KUNG KAN AND LADY KAN WILL BE AMONG THE THOUSANDS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL.

AT JOSS HOUSE BAY, A LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS IS EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR WAY IN GAILY-DECORATED JUNKS, BARGES AND SAMPANS TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE THERE, BRINGING OFFERINGS AND FOOD FOR THE DAY-LONG CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES.

FOR VISITORS GOING TO JOSS HOUSE BAY, THERE WILL BE SIGNS INDICATING BERTHS FOR EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION AND, AS USUAL, THE ARMY WILL PROVIDE A TEMPORARY PONTOON.

TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS, THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY CO. WILL OPERATE SPECIAL SERVICES BETWEEN WANCHAI AND JOSS HOUSE BAY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EVENT AT YUEN LONG. PRESS BADGES FOR THE PARADE ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE AS FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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WARNING ON MACHINERY ACCIDENTS
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE TODAY WARNED INDUSTRIALISTS THAT IMPROPERLY-USED OR BADLY-GUARDED MACHINES COULD BE LETHAL WEAPONS.

LAST YEAR MACHINERY ACCIDENTS KILLED EIGHT WORKERS AND INJURED 6,753, HE TOLD A LUNCHEON OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST.

MR. PRICE SAID THAT AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF WORK ACCIDENTS, MACHINERY WAS NOW SECOND ONLY TO FALLS OF PERSONS AND STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS, WHICH LAST YEAR LED TO 8,223 INJURIES AND 66 FATALITIES -- AN INCREASE OF 21.6 PER CENT IN INJURIES, BUT A DECREASE OF SEVEN PER CENT ON 1973'S FATALITY FIGURES.

DURING THE PAST YEAR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN COMPILING MORE COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS ON MACHINERY ACCIDENTS WITH THE AIM OF OBTAINING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PATTERN OF THESE ACCIDENTS.

MR. PRICE SAID HE HOPED TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT PROVISIONS ON MACHINERY GUARDING IN THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS BY A CODE OF COMPREHENSIVE REGULATIONS.

+I HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED MY PROPOSALS ON THIS CODE TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL OF ITS PRINCIPLES,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER URGED INDUSTRIALISTS WHO HAD NOT DONE SO, TO LOOK CRITICALLY AT THE STANDARDS OF GUARDING THEIR MACHINES AND TO TAKE ANY REMEDIAL MEASURES -- HOWEVER BELATED.

ALTHOUGH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN THE LEAD -- AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO -- BY PROVIDING FREE ADVISORY, TRAINING AND INSPECTION SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS, MR. PRICE SAID IT WAS NOW UP TO EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS, DESIGN SAFER METHODS OF WORK, ENSURE ADEQUATE TRAINING FOR THEIR WORKERS AND SUPERVISE THEM UNDER APPROPRIATE SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE STRESSED THAT WORKERS MUST, FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR OWN SAFETY, RESPECT SUCH RULES AND PROCEDURES AND EXERCISE THE DUE DEGREE OF CARE AT WORK.

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE, OVERALL, 31,014 REPORTED ACCIDENTS IN 1974 -- A SMALL 1.6 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE 1973 FIGURE, BUT NEVERTHELESS A CONTINUATION OF THE GENERAL UPWARD MOVEMENT.

/+HOWEVER,

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+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THIS SLIGHT RISE IN THE OVERALL RATE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A 23 PER CENT DECREASE IN FATALITIES.+

HE ADDED THAT EMPLOYERS, WORKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE HIGH ACCIDENT RATE WHICH HAD FOR SO LONG PLAGUED HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, HE SAID, REMAINED THE AREA WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INJURY-CAUSING AND FATAL ACCIDENTS, WITH 5,401 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BEING INJURED AND 65 KILLED LAST YEAR -- 8.5 PER CENT MORE INJURIES AND 6.6 PER CENT MORE DEATHS THAN IN 1973.

FOR THIS REASON, THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS WERE BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN 1974 TO PROVIDE STATUTORY BACKING TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE IN ITS MISSION OF EDUCATING, PERSUADING AND ASSISTING CONTRACTORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES TO INSTALL PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS AND ADOPT SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK.

MR. PRICE SAID THE PROSPECT OF PERSUADING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO RESPOND TO ITS OBLIGATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE SAFETY OF WORKERS WAS ENCOURAGING -- +AND WELL EVIDENCED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY THE READY SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, LTD. AND THE SOCIETY OF BUILDERS.+

HONG KONG'S SECOND MOST DANGEROUS INDUSTRY WAS ITS BIGGEST EMPLOYER, THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAD 3,818 WORKERS INJURED LAST YEAR -- INCLUDING 14 FATALITIES ALMOST TWICE THE NUMBER IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE THIRD WORST ACCIDENT RECORD WAS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND THE SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT.

IN THIS GROUP, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS ROSE BY 21.26 PER CENT LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FATALITIES DROPPED 23 PER CENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THAT PARTICULAR FIELD ROSE SHARPLY FROM 22,316 TO 27,315 DURING THIS PERIOD. +SO SOME COMFORT CAN BE TAKEN FROM THE FACT THAT FATALITIES HAVE BEEN CUT, DESPITE THE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS AT RISK,+ HE SAID.

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SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL APPOINTED

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A SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, MR. THOMAS LIMNA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF THE MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE SECRETARIAT.

MR. LIMNA, 37, SUCCEEDS MR. E.I. (PETER) LEE WHO TAKES UP FULL-TIME DUTIES AS THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS FROM TOMORROW (MAY 1).

MR. LIMNA, A CHARTERED ENGINEER, BEGAN HIS CAREER IN ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY IN THE 1950S. HE JOINED THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL (THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AS IT WAS THEN KNOWN) IN 1963 AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND IN OCTOBER 1968 WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF AN ADVISORY TEAM INTRODUCING +MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES+ AS A PILOT STUDY IN U.K. LOCAL GOVERNMENT. FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE STUDY, THIS METHOD OF MANAGING WAS EXTENDED TO OTHER SELECTED AREAS OF THE GLC.

MR. LIMNA WAS THEN MADE A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL OFFICE SET UP TO INTRODUCE AND IMPLEMENT A MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, COVERING POLICY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING, WITHIN THE GLC.

HE WAS RELEASED BY THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL IN AUGUST 1973 TO TAKE UP A POST IN THE MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING AND CO-ORDINATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MCKINSEY REPORT ON THE +MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT+.

MR. LIMNA IS CURRENTLY HEADING A TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING THE 10-YEAR HOUSING TARGET AND ITS INTEGRATION INTO A FULL-SCALE POLICY PLAN FOR HOUSING IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. LIMNA ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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HOLIDAY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS RE-INTRODUCED
ON CASTLE PEAK AND CLEARWATER BAY ROADS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS THAT THE ANNUAL SPECIAL HOLIDAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND CLEARWATER BAY ROAD WOULD BE RE-INTRODUCED FROM SUNDAY (MAY 4).

UNDER THE SCHEME, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, ALL GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL ALONG CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ROADS DURING SPECIFIED HOURS ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

HE SAID THE SCHEME WAS INTENDED TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING LORRIES AND BY HEAVY VEHICLES BREAKING DOWN, AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PASSENGER TRANSPORT FOR A FEW HOURS TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO HAVE REASONABLY QUICK ACCESS TO BEACHES AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS.

ON CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, ALL GOODS VEHICLES TRAVELLING IN AN EASTERLY (UPHILL) DIRECTION WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING THAT SECTION BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND FEI NGOR SHAN ROAD FROM 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS— AND GOODS VEHICLES TRAVELLING IN A DOWNHILL DIRECTION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THE SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND ANDERSON ROAD FROM 2 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THEY WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TRAVELLING ALONG THAT SECTION BETWEEN SHA TSUI ROAD AND CAUSEWAY ROAD FROM 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, THERE WOULD STILL NOT BE A TOTAL BAN ON THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON TAI PO ROAD, ROUTE TWISK AND ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD OUTSIDE THE RESTRICTED HOURS.

THE SCHEME WILL BE ENFORCED UNTIL OCTOBER 14 THIS YEAR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO PUBLIC HOLIDAYS — JUNE 14 AND JULY 1, HE SAID.

THE SCHEME ON CLEARWATER BAY ROAD HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL DURING ITS OPERATION IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND LAST YEAR WHERE IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD, A SURVEY INDICATED A GENERAL INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN TRAFFIC VOLUME AND AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 14 PER CENT IN JOURNEY SPEED ON THE ROAD.

+BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF SLOW-MOVING LORRIES AND BREAKDOWNS, BUS SERVICES IN THIS PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE ABLE TO ADHERE MORE CLOSELY TO THEIR TIMETABLES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CHIEF ENGINEER RETIRING
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MR. NG LIN-HING, A CHIEF ENGINEER, WILL BE RETIRING SHORTLY AFTER 15 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

HE WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE IN MAY.

MR. NG FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1960 AS AN ENGINEER AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR ENGINEER IN 1967 AND CHIEF ENGINEER IN 1973.

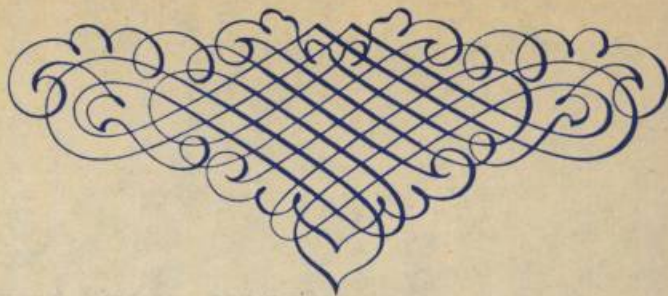
TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, MR. W.T. KNIGHT, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, WILL PRESENT HIM A GIFT ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS AT A PRESENTATION TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (MAY 2) AT 4 P.M. AT THE P.W.D. CONFERENCE ROOM, MURRAY BUILDING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESENTATION.

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ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Wednesday, April 30, 1975

'LIVE' MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL PROCESSION

A group of Hong Kong musicians have been rehearsing overtime so that the Queen, during her visit next week, will have an opportunity to see and hear a traditional Chinese orchestra at work.

The opportunity emerged in the course of planning the procession for the Queen to be held in Nathan Road on the night of May 6.

At first it was intended that the various participants in the procession would be performing their acts to the accompaniment of recorded music, relayed over loudspeakers.

In discussing the technical problems involved, the planning committee decided it would be more effective to have the music played by a live orchestra, seated under the Royal Box, so that the Queen would have a chance to see their traditional instruments and observe their performing styles.

However, this created the major problem of an orchestra having to learn, in a very short space of time, an entirely new and extremely varied repertoire of musical items, each of which would have to be carefully synchronised to the requirements of the individual groups in the procession.

/Undaunted by

Undaunted by this prospect, Radio Hong Kong's Lung Cheung Orchestra, which is normally heard but not seen, undertook to practise all the musical items in strict tempo with recordings that the groups had already been using for their own rehearsals.

Satisfied that the timing difficulties were overcome, the orchestra then recorded its own versions of the various items and returned these to the groups so that they could familiarise themselves with the sounds they would be hearing during the actual performance.

As a final step, the orchestra visited the various groups at their rehearsal venues to ensure an even closer degree of co-ordination.

The organisers are now confident that these efforts will achieve a much more convincing result - in both sonic and visual terms - on the night of the procession.

Commented a spokesman for the planning committee, "The Queen can rarely have had an opportunity to see and hear traditional Chinese musicians performing on their beautiful and unique instruments.

"Though the impact of the various dances and costumes in the procession itself will be a novel experience for her, we felt it would add an extra dimension to the occasion if she was to see and hear the musical accompaniment performed in the customary way."

In contrast to the delicate sounds of the Lung Cheung Orchestra, the Southern Band of the Royal Air Force will be entertaining spectators, before the procession with a rousing selection of marches, and will greet the arrival of the Queen with a rendering of the National Anthem.

/The procession will

The procession will be led by a representative contingent of the Services, comprising the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, C Squadron Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Hong Kong Military Services Corps, Royal Hong Kong Regiment 'The Volunteers', Royal Hampshire Regiment and 20th Light Regiment Royal Artillery.

Setting the pace for this march past will be the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Band of the 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment, while the Massed Pipes and Drums and Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will bring up the rear.

Once beyond the Royal Box, the Gurkhas will still their pipes and drums so as not to overwhelm the much quieter strains that accompany the traditional Chinese items which comprise the main body of the procession.