



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, October 6, 1972

GOVERNMENT PLANS STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF AN OIL REFINERY

The Government announced today that it will not start to process the Shell Company of Hong Kong's enquiry regarding the possible establishment of an oil refinery, unless satisfied by independent consultants that three important environmental aspects of life in Hong Kong can be safeguarded.

The proposed site for the refinery is north-east Lamma Island.

The spokesman said the Government must be convinced that there will be no material damage to, or pollution of:

- (a) marine life and the fishing industry;
- (b) conditions of living for residents in Hong Kong which, of course, includes Lamma Island;
- (c) recreational facilities in south Hong Kong and the rest of Lamma Island.

"As there is considerable public uncertainty and anxiety on these points, it is necessary to establish whether satisfactory safeguards can be assured," he said.

To do this the Government will appoint the consultants forthwith to advise on (i) what levels of control over the distribution of effluent into the sea and air and over spillage, are both desirable and practicable; and (ii) what the effect is likely to be on each of the three fields outlined above if such controls are enforced.

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The spokesman made it clear that the Government would make its final decision in the light of the consultants' report and the ability of the operating company, if it builds the refinery, to meet the necessary conditions.

Meanwhile, discussions will begin on the other considerations involved.

The first stage of the project under examination by Shell would involve the construction of a 200,000 barrel-a-day (10 million tons a year) refinery for completion in 1979-80.

All the crude storage tanks would be in caverns beneath the existing landscape, but the refinery plant and product storage would be on formed and reclaimed land. The proposed lease area covers about 410 acres.

Hong Kong's total requirement for petroleum products is at present in the order of 90,000 barrels-a-day (4½ million tons a year) and is forecast to increase at an annual rate of approximately 9 per cent.

Shell has indicated that products not drawn from a refinery to meet the needs of the local market would be exported to a number of destinations, primarily in the Far East.

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LEGISLATION TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER ISSUE OF COMPANY PROSPECTUSES

The first of a number of bills giving effect to the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Companies Law Revision Committee was published today.

Commenting on the bill, the Companies (Amendment) Bill 1972, a government spokesman said its principal aim was to tighten control over prospectuses issued in Hong Kong by companies, whether local or foreign.

"When the bill is enacted," the spokesman said, "the law of Hong Kong will be brought generally into line, as far as prospectuses are concerned, with the Companies Act 1948 in Great Britain, but with the addition of most of the recommendations in the Jenkins Committee Report of 1962. As yet, these have not been incorporated into British legislation."

The main features of the bill include the following:

- (1) More information will have to be supplied in prospectuses than has been the practice.
- (2) Prospectuses must be published in Chinese as well as in English.
- (3) Prospectuses will have to contain a notice advising potential investors, if they are in any doubt, to consult a professional adviser.
- (4) In order to give potential investors an opportunity to digest the information in a prospectus and seek professional advice if they wish, at least two days must elapse between the issue of a prospectus and the opening of the subscription lists.

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- (5) Criminal sanctions and civil liability will attach to anyone responsible for mis-statements in prospectuses, including experts, such as valuers, who have consented to its issue.
- (6) The Registrar of Companies will be empowered to refuse to register prospectuses that do not comply with the statutory requirements, or contain information likely to mislead, but he will not be responsible for the contents of a prospectus. If the Registrar refuses to register a prospectus, the shares to which it relates may not be offered to the public.

The maximum penalty imposed under the proposed new legislation covers the issuing of prospectuses containing untrue statements.

Any person who authorises the issue of such a prospectus will be liable on conviction on indictment to a fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for two years; or on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The spokesman added that a number of other bills dealing with aspects of the First Report of the Companies Law Revision Committee, which dealt with the protection of investors, are now being prepared.

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INCREASED FARES FOR PEAK TRAM

People travelling on the Peak Tram will be paying increased fares from the beginning of next month.

The full fare for an adult will be increased from 60 cents to \$1 and the section fare from 40 cents to 50 cents. Children under the age of 12 will have to pay 50 cents for a journey.

This is the first revision of the fare structure since 1946.

Existing charges for carrying small animals and parcels will be dropped and the trams will no longer carry freight except small parcels carried by passengers.

In line with other public transport companies, servicemen will also have to pay fares and the concessionary fares for domestic servants and labourers will be withdrawn.

Adult monthly tickets, as with the bus companies, are abolished; although student tickets are to be retained and will cost \$25 each for the full distance and \$17 to May Road. The old charges were \$15 and \$10.

The increase in fares are related to the Peak Tram Company's financial position, which has shown a deteriorating trend, and an increase of some 25 per cent in operating costs over last year.

It is expected that traffic and revenue will increase following the opening of the Peak Tower Restaurant, although there are no accurate estimates and the increases will have to be set against the additional cost of extending the tram service to 1 a.m.

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The Government also considered remitting the permit fee charged to the company, which in some ways is comparable to the royalties paid by the two bus companies and the Hongkong Tramways Limited.

This fee, however, unlike the royalty payments, is charged for the use of the Crown land over which the tramway is constructed. As an alternative to remitting it, a bill will be introduced to Legislative Council with a proposal to fix a levy of \$25,000 for the year 1972.

As for the future, the Legislative Council will be given power, if the bill is passed, to amend by resolution the rate of permit fee payable either generally or for any particular year.

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FIRE CLOSES MORSE PARK POOL

The Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex in Kowloon will be temporarily closed because of damage caused by a small fire in the main switch-room on Monday (October 2).

Repair work is now in progress, and it is hoped that the pools can be re-opened in about two weeks.

Bookings accepted through the Urban Services Department and the Education Department for the two-week period have been transferred to other swimming pools.

However, the second annual swimming gala of the Tsuen Wan District, scheduled to be held at Morse Park on Sunday (October 8) has been postponed until further notice.

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NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION TO OPEN ON OCTOBER 18

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will give a full review of Hong Kong affairs at the opening of the new Legislative Council session on Wednesday, October 18 at 2.30 p.m.

It will be the first formal opening for Sir Murray since he became Governor last November.

The afternoons of Wednesday, November 1, and Thursday, November 2, have been set aside for unofficial members to speak to a motion of thanks for the Governor's address. This gives the members an opportunity to speak on any matters of public interest.

Official members will reply on Wednesday, November 15 and, if necessary, on Friday, November 17.

Apart from the Governor's address, there will be other business during the opening session on the 18th. This will include first and second readings of bills and the tabling of subsidiary legislation.

The last session of the Legislative Council ended on August 30.

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VISIT OF PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will see various aspects of life in Hong Kong during her six-day official visit later this month.

The Princess, accompanied by her husband, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, will arrive by Royal Air Force aircraft on Saturday, October 21, and will remain here until Thursday, October 26.

They will stay at Government House as the guests of the Governor and Lady MacLehose.

During her stay, she will visit a number of social welfare and medical institutions, see rehabilitation work among handicapped children and meet young people involved in welfare and recreational activities and other community work such as the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" Campaign.

The Princess will also attend a number of police engagements in her capacity as Honorary Commandant-General of the Royal Hong Kong Police and the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police.

About two hours after her arrival in Hong Kong, Princess Alexandra will drive from Government House to Hung Hom through the cross-harbour tunnel and unveil a plaque outside the administration building of the tunnel company to mark the completion of the project.

In the evening of Sunday, October 22, she will attend a Beating of Retreat ceremony by the Band of the Royal Hong Kong Police at the Police Training School in Aberdeen.

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The following morning, Princess Alexandra will unveil a plaque at a building under construction at police headquarters to mark her visit there. She will then visit the Arsenal Street rank and file married quarters and the police primary school. From there, she will leave for Wanchai police station.

In the afternoon, the Princess, accompanied by Mr. Ogilvy, will open the British Industrial Exhibition in Wanchai.

On the morning of Tuesday, October 24, she will see some of the work being done by voluntary welfare agencies for the blind and the handicapped during visits to the Ebenezer School and Home for the Blind in Pokfulam and the Princess Alexandra Red Cross Residential School in Kwun Tong.

In the afternoon, she will visit the Morse Park swimming pool complex in Kowloon to see for herself some aspects of the recreational activities organised for young people in Hong Kong. This will include demonstrations by members of the Royal Life Saving Society and the Hong Kong Sea School.

From Morse Park, she will drive to Stone Nullah Lane in Wan Chai to watch cleaning operations connected with the "Clean Hong Kong" campaign, which will then be in full swing.

In the evening, she will attend a review of the Royal Hong Kong Police and Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police at the Hong Kong Stadium. She will address the parade and present medals to a number of officers.

Another busy day awaits the Princess on Wednesday, October 25. She will open the new South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic and visit the Manhattan Garments Factory in Tsuen Wan where she will meet and see young women at work. She will also visit Tsuen Wan's Community Centre which is named after her.

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In the evening, the Princess and Mr. Ogilvy will attend the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force Dinner and Ball at the Hilton Hotel, accompanied by the Governor and Lady MacLehose.

The Royal visitors will fly home the following day.

Note to Editors: Details of the press arrangements for Princess Alexandra's visit will be announced in a few days' time.

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FIRE WARNING SYSTEM

Note to Editors: For the first time in Hong Kong, a fire danger warning system, aimed at making people aware of fire risk, will be introduced next week.

The launching of the new warning system coincides with the approach of the dry season.

To introduce the scheme, a press conference to be chaired by the Director of Fire Services, Mr. A.E.H. Wood, will be held at the Government Information Services Department on Monday (October 9).

Also present will be the Director of the Royal Observatory, Mr. G.J. Bell, and the Senior Forestry Officer, Mr. P.A. Daley.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the press conference which will be held in the 35 mm Theatre, Government Information Services Department, 5th Floor, Beaconsfield House, on Monday, October 9, at 3 p.m.

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SLAUGHTERING CHARGES AT GOVERNMENT ABATTOIRS

The hours for pig slaughtering at the two abattoirs will soon be extended to meet the demand for fresh pork supply earlier in the morning.

Night shift work for the slaughtering will be introduced at the Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir in Kowloon as from November 1.

On the same date on Hong Kong Island, pig slaughtering at the Kennedy Town Abattoir will be advanced by one and half hours from 7 a.m. to 5.30 a.m.

An increase in the slaughtering fees is proposed to cover operating costs, while the Government is embarking on a long-term plan to improve and expand the services provided by the abattoirs.

Fresh pork consumption in Hong Kong has increased year after year. This is reflected in the number of pigs slaughtered in the two abattoirs, which has risen from about 1,808,000 heads in 1969-70 to nearly 2,500,000 in 1971-72.

To cope with this increase, major improvements for the Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir will be implemented shortly, including further mechanisation and the installation of a third dressing line.

Improvements to lighting and ventilation in the pig slaughterhall have been made to meet the night shift scheme. One of the two existing dressing lines is being closed for renovation and overhauling.

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Work on the installation of the third dressing line, estimated to cost \$1.5 million, including equipment will start as soon as renovation of the existing lines is completed.

In the past, the two abattoirs have been operating at a loss. The annual deficit on both abattoirs was about \$8 million in 1971-72. The expenditure for the year was \$26,406,753 against revenue of \$18,854,371.

The capital cost for the abattoirs at the end of March this year was about \$61 million, consisting of land - \$7,200,000, building cost \$39,800,452 and equipment - \$13,793,279.

To provide for a far better service by the abattoirs, the Government has proposed to increase as from November 1 the charge for slaughtering pigs at Cheung Sha Wan from \$6 to \$9 per head without delivery for those slaughtered before 8 a.m. each day.

However, the charge for those slaughtered after 8 a.m. will be \$5 per head as against \$6 at present, but excluding delivery.

At Kennedy Town, the charge will be \$6 per head without delivery for those slaughtered before 8 a.m., and \$7 per head with delivery, for those slaughtered after 8 a.m.

This is the first time since 1968 that changes have been made to the slaughtering fees.

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A spokesman for the Urban Services Department said today that the change in the charge for night shift slaughtering is insignificant to the consumer and is compensated by a better service to be introduced in the interest of the meat trade and the public alike - the earlier supply of meat to meet the demand of the morning market. Assuming the average dressed weight of a pig to be 100 catties, the change in cost, less than 10 cents per catty, is marginal.

Besides, staff working on night shift will be paid a special wage rate in addition to their normal salary.

The proposals for the fee changes have been endorsed by the Abattoirs and Markets Select Committee of the Urban Council and the Standing Committee of the Whole Council. Amendments will be made by the Urban Council to the laws in connection with the changes and are expected to be tabled in the Legislative Council towards the end of this month.

No change in the charge for cattle slaughtering is proposed for the time being.

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SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AT KWAI CHUNG

Piling work on the first sea-water swimming pool in Hong Kong is underway at Kwai Chung.

The pools, to be built on a 250,000 square-foot site between Kwai Chung Road and Kwai Shing Government Low Cost Housing Estate, are expected to be completed in 1974.

There will be two 50-metre pools, a 35-foot square diving pool, equipped with springboards, three teaching and children's pools, one paddling pool and one children's water play area.

One of the 50-metre pools will be built to competition standards with a grandstand alongside to seat 800 spectators at swimming galas and sports events.

The pools, capable of taking 5,000 swimmers at one time, will serve an eventual population of more than 800,000 people.

They will take up the greater part of the site. The rest of the area is planned for a cafeteria, a rest garden with trees, flowers and a pavilion,

Changing rooms, showers and lavatories are provided in a building next to the pools. In addition, there will be parking space for 46 cars.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said tenders will shortly be called for the supply and installation of three filtration plants for the swimming pool complex.

Each unit will consist of pressure sand filters, water circulating pumps, chemical dosing equipment, chlorinators and water distribution pipe work and fittings.

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The work will cost about \$1.4 million.

The spokesman said the total pool capacity is 920,000 gallons.

In order to maintain the swimming pool water in a clear, sterile state, he added, water in the pools has to be recirculated through the filtration system once every four to six hours.

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RAINSTORM ROADS TO BE RE-OPENED

Sections of Shan Kwong Road in Happy Valley and Robinson Road in Mid-Levels, which had been closed due to rainstorm damage, will be re-opened to traffic tomorrow (Saturday) and October 10 respectively.

The section of Shan Kwong Road to be re-opened lies between King Kwong Street and Yik Yam Street, and had been closed since September 24.

Bus stops in King Kwong Street for routes 1, 19 and 5A will also become operational tomorrow.

The section of Robinson Road between the junction with Park Road and the access road to No. 105 Robinson Road had been closed since the June rainstorms.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.