



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1976.

WORK OF VARIOUS GOV'T DEPARTMENTS DURING TYPHOON

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THE HOISTING OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL MAY MEAN A QUIET, RESTFUL DAY AT HOME TO THE AVERAGE MAN, BUT FOR OFFICERS OF MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MEMBERS OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, IT MEANS SWINGING INTO FULL ALERT AND STEPPING UP PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY.

WHEN A STORM GETS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE A THREAT, DEPARTMENTS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IMMEDIATELY ACTIVATE THEIR EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS AND OFFICERS REPORT FOR DUTY, GEARED UP TO DEAL WITH ANY EVENTUALITY.

LONG BEFORE THIS AND WELL BEFORE THE START OF THE TYPHOON SEASON EVERY YEAR, DETAILED CONTINGENCY PLANS AND COMPREHENSIVE WARNING SYSTEMS ARE DRAWN UP SO THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE. THIS ENSURES THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF ALL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS TO GIVE MAXIMUM PROTECTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

FOR PEOPLE WHOSE HOMES MAY BE ENDANGERED, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT CAN, AT VERY SHORT NOTICE, SET UP A CHAIN OF 115 TEMPORARY SHELTERS WHICH CAN BETWEEN THEM ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 22,000 PEOPLE.

THESE CENTRES ARE OPEN ONCE THE NUMBER 8 STORM WARNING SIGNAL IS UP AND ANYONE CAN STAY THERE UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO RETURN HOME.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ALSO GOES ON ALERT WHENEVER THERE IS A TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING, PARTICULARLY WHEN HONG KONG'S LARGE FLEET OF FISHING VESSELS AND JUNKS ARE RETURNING TO BASE.

PATROL LAUNCHES INSPECT ALL TYPHOON SHELTERS TO ENSURE THAT BOATS ARE SAFELY SHELTERED AND THAT FIRE LANES AND FAIRWAYS ARE NOT BLOCKED. SPACES ARE ALSO RESERVED FOR CROSS HARBOUR FERRIES BECAUSE THEY ARE USUALLY THE LAST TO CEASE OPERATION.

AS LONG AS WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMIT, FAST LAUNCH PATROLS THE HARBOUR TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SAFETY ADVICE TO OCEAN-GOING VESSELS. IF A SHIP IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, THE DEPARTMENT'S PORT COMMUNICATION CENTRE ACTS AS THE CO-ORDINATOR OF ANY SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION. GOVERNMENT VESSELS INCLUDING MARINE POLICE LAUNCHES, FIREBOATS, AND NAVY CRAFT MAY ALSO BE CALLED IN TO HELP.

/THE GOVERNMENT

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THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED SO THAT ADVANCE PRECAUTIONS CAN BE TAKEN, ALSO GO ON FULL ALERT.

IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, GIS WILL WORK AND RTHK BROADCAST ROUND THE CLOCK.

LATEST STORM INFORMATION AND PRECAUTIONARY ADVICE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ARE DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE MEDIA THROUGH THE GIS NETWORK OF TELEPRINTER AND FASCIMILE. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE LATEST TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND EVENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST ARE ALSO ISSUED CONTINUOUSLY BY GIS.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS GOING ON ALERT INCLUDE THE FIRE SERVICES WHICH HELPS OUT IN RESCUE WORK AS WELL AS FIGHT FIRES= THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHICH TAKES CARE OF THE INJURED= THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHICH PROVIDES RELIEF, SHELTER AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRY PEOPLE= THE POLICE WHICH MAINTAIN ROAD COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WHICH REPAIRS DAMAGE TO ROADS, BUILDINGS AND DRAINS= THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF, AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WHICH GIVES TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION TO PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS.

PLAYING AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE DURING EMERGENCIES ARE THE AUXILIARY SERVICES INCLUDING THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES, THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

MEMBERS OF THE C.A.S. CAN BE CALLED OUT TO HELP TO CLEAN ROADS AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS, TO EVACUATE CASUALTIES, TO CARRY URGENT DISPATCHES AND TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF ARTICLES TO STORM VICTIMS WHILE A.M.S. MEMBERS ARE MOBILISED TO STAFF EMERGENCY AMBULANCES IN FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S AMBULANCE DEPOTS.

AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE CAN BE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY ONCE STORM WARNING NUMBER 3 IS UP, AND MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF THE ARMED FORCES, CAN BE QUICKLY MOBILISED TO FORM RESCUE PARTIES, FIRST AID TEAMS, EMERGENCY TREATMENT UNITS, OR TO SUPPORT THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN CLEARING ROAD, FIGHTING FIRES AND HANDING OUT RELIEF.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG RED CROSS AND THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE ARE ALSO ON STANDBY AND CAN BE CALLED IN TO PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING AND CO-ORDINATING ALL THESE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AUXILIARY SERVICES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IS THE CIVIL CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, WHICH IS USUALLY ACTIVATED WHEN TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING NUMBER 8 OR HIGHER IS HOISTED.

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UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE C.C.C. ACTS AS THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY FOR THE WHOLE EMERGENCY OPERATION.

THE SAME PRECAUTIONS ARE ALSO TAKEN DURING SEVERE RAINSTORMS, FLOODINGS, AND OTHER EMERGENCIES.

THROUGH THESE ARRANGEMENTS THE GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS WELL PREPARED TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY AND WORK TOWARDS A RAPID RETURN TO NORMAL CONDITIONS.

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+TRAFFIC SEPARATION+ SYSTEM FOR HARBOUR PROVES SUCCESSFUL
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A UNIQUE SAFETY SCHEME INTRODUCED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING SHIPS IN THE HARBOUR HAS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE SCHEME KNOWN AS THE +TRAFFIC SEPARATION+ SYSTEM, STARTED EARLY THIS YEAR.

THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER/PLANNING, MR. GORDON MILWARD, SAID THE SYSTEM COMPRISED TWO ROUTES, ONE COVERING THE EASTERN APPROACHES TO THE HARBOUR AND THE OTHER AT THE WESTERN APPROACHES.

THE EASTERN PASSAGE IS FROM WAGLAN ISLAND TO LEI YUE MUN PASSING THROUGH THE TATHONG CHANNEL AND THE WESTERN ROUTE THROUGH EAST LAMMA CHANNEL TO GREEN ISLAND.

MR. MILWARD SAID THE WESTERN POINT WAS BEING HEAVILY USED BY TANKERS OF UP TO 100,000 TONS ON THEIR WAY TO ANCHORAGE AND BY CONTAINER SHIPS CALLING AT KWAI CHUNG TERMINAL.

MARINE DEPARTMENT PATROLS FREQUENTLY VISIT THE TWO AREAS TO ENSURE THE PROPER USE OF THE PASSAGES BY VESSELS.

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SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FOR NEW GPO
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A SOPHISTICATED POSTAL MECHANISATION SYSTEM, WHICH WILL MAKE HONG KONG ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED MAIL HANDLING CENTRES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE NEW GPO BUILDING IN PREPARATION FOR ITS OFFICIAL OPENING EARLY NEXT MONTH.

COSTING SOME \$12 MILLION, THE SYSTEM INCORPORATES A WIDE RANGE OF THE LATEST MAIL HANDLING EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING A NETWORK OF CHAIN AND BELT CONVEYORS LINKING THE NEW BUILDING WITH ADJACENT SEA BERTHS TO PROVIDE BETTER LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES.

AN AUTOMATIC STAMP CANCELLING MACHINE, CAPABLE OF STAMPING AND SORTING 25,000 LETTERS AN HOUR, HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED.

ALL THIS EQUIPMENT WILL SAVE CONSIDERABLE MANPOWER AND FURTHER ENHANCE EFFICIENCY TO COPE WITH THE POST OFFICE'S EVER INCREASING WORKLOAD.

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G.C.E. CANDIDATES URGED TO COLLECT CERTIFICATES
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CANDIDATES WHO HAVE NOT COLLECTED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF THIS JANUARY'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON G.C.E. EXAMINATION ARE URGED TO DO SO BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11TH FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

+CANDIDATES SHOULD CALL IN PERSON DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS, BRINGING WITH THEM THEIR ADMISSION FORMS OR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS/PASSPORTS FOR IDENTIFICATION,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT UNCLAIMED CERTIFICATES WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AT A LATER DATE.

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