



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1974.

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APPROACH OF CHOLERA SEASON
ADVICE ON HYGIENE BY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
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DR. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, ADVISED TODAY THAT WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CHOLERA SEASON, +PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS+ WERE ESSENTIAL IF HONG KONG WAS TO REMAIN FREE FROM THE DISEASE THIS YEAR.

HE WARNED THAT +PRIMARY PROTECTION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS+ MEANT CLEAN FOOD, CLEAN WATER, THE WASHING OF HANDS BEFORE MEALS, AND AFTER VISITS TO THE TOILET.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE +EXTRA CAUTIOUS+ IN THEIR CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINK.

+IMPROPERLY COOKED FOOD CAN CAUSE INFECTION, WHILE PROPERLY COOKED FOOD CANNOT. IF THE LATTER IS NOT EATEN IMMEDIATELY, IT SHOULD NOT BE LEFT IN THE OPEN, AND SO EXPOSED TO CONTAMINATION.+

DR. CHOA REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT WITH MORE AND MORE RESIDENTS PATRONISING STALLS SPECIALISING IN COOKED FOOD AS AN ECONOMY MEASURE, IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THIS SUMMER THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN RECENT YEARS TO BE MORE PARTICULAR WITH WHAT THEY ATE AND DRANK PREPARED OUTSIDE THEIR OWN HOMES.

HE ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT WITH CHOLERA ALREADY IN EVIDENCE IN MANY TERRITORIES IN THE REGION, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS PAYING EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF THE DISEASE.

ALL EATABLES ARRIVING FROM INFECTED TERRITORIES, SUCH AS FRUIT, WERE ALREADY BEING SERIOUSLY SCRUTINISED BY HEALTH INSPECTORS, AND ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN HAND FOR AN IMMEDIATE ACCELERATION OF EFFORT IN THE CASE OF NEED. HE THANKED THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION.

DR. CHOA MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT WATER COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE MAINS IN HONG KONG WAS +PURE AND SAFE FOR DRINKING,+ AND DID NOT REQUIRE TO BE BOILED.

IN HIS VIEW, DANGER OF IMPURITY AROSE WHEN THIS WATER LEFT THE MAINS FOR STORAGE IN TANKS, DRUMS, OR BUCKETS. AS THESE CONTAINERS WERE SOMETIMES LEFT FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT CLEANING, OR OTHERWISE NOT REGULARLY OR HYGIENICALLY ATTENDED TO, THEY MADE POSSIBLE THE CONTAMINATION OF THE WATER BY GERMS.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ DR. CHOA SAID, +STORED WATER SHOULD BE BOILED BEFORE DRINKING. THIS IS NOT A REFLECTION ON THE QUALITY OF THE WATER, BUT RELATES TO STORAGE CONDITIONS.+

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IN A REFERENCE TO PERSONAL HYGIENE, HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THIS WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY INTO ACCOUNT BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, IT AMOUNTED TO +A PROTECTIVE MEASURE NOT ONLY AGAINST CHOLERA, BUT ALSO OTHER INTESTINAL DISEASES SUCH AS TYPHOID AND DYSENTERY.+

HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO LOCAL CASE OF CHOLERA SINCE 1969, BUT WITH SUMMER NOW HERE, IT WAS +NECESSARY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR MORE EMPHASIS ON PROTECTIVE MEASURES.+

+PEOPLE GET CHOLERA BY TAKING IN THE VIBRIO CARRIED FROM THE WASTE OF INFECTIOUS PERSONS TO EXPOSED FOOD AND WATER, AND FLIES AID IN THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO INCREASED ATTENTION BEING PAID BY URBAN COUNCIL AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEALTH INSPECTORS AND THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO REGIONAL FOOD IMPORTS AND TRAVELLERS, DEPARTMENTAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES ALSO INCLUDE MEASURES ALREADY IN HAND TO LOCATE AND PUT UNDER IMMEDIATE SURVEILLANCE, OR EVEN TO HOSPITALISE CARRIERS OF THE DISEASE, THE TESTING OF NIGHT SOIL AND STOOL CULTURES, AND SAMPLES OF ALL CASES OF DIARRHOEA THAT COME TO LIGHT.

CHOLERA VACCINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND VACCINATION CENTRES FOR INTENDING TRAVELLERS.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT TOY FACTORY
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL BE VISITING A TOY FACTORY TOMORROW (MONDAY). HE WILL SEE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS AT KADER INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD., 24 TANNER ROAD, NORTH POINT. THE FIRM MAKES VARIOUS PLASTIC PRODUCTS AS WELL AS TOYS.

SIR MURRAY WILL BE ARRIVING AT THE FACTORY AT 2.35 P.M., AND WILL BE MET BY MR. H.C. TING, PERMANENT MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OTHER COMPANY OFFICIALS. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ROY PORTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND MR. K.H. YEUNG, PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH.

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

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WORK ACCIDENT TOLL DROPS
11 KILLED, 912 INJURED IN JAN-MARCH QUARTER
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FIFTY-EIGHT PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 6,457 INJURED AT WORK DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

RELEASING THE FIGURES TODAY, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON SAID: +COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR, THE TOTAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED SHOW AN INCREASE OF 151.

+BUT THERE IS A DROP OF 35 IN THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF MORE THAN ONE THIRD. AND THE OVERALL ACCIDENT TOLL FOR THE QUARTER IS THE LOWEST FOR A YEAR, IN TERMS OF BOTH DEATHS AND INJURIES.

+IT COMPARES WITH 93 DEAD AND 6,271 INJURED IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR= 65 DEAD AND 7,299 INJURED IN THE JUNE QUARTER LAST YEAR= 85 DEAD AND 8,579 INJURED IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER= AND 61 DEAD AND 8,065 INJURED IN THE DECEMBER QUARTER.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REMAINED THE WORST KILLER INDUSTRY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, KILLING 11 WORKERS AND INJURING 912 - ONE IN EVERY FIVE KILLED AND ONE IN EVERY SEVEN INJURED IN ALL WORK ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG IN THE PERIOD.

AND HE WARNED: +WITH THE ADVENT OF BIG ENGINEERING PROJECTS SUCH AS THE DESALTER PLANT AND THE UNDERGROUND MASS TRANSIT, MORE HEAVY MACHINERY WILL BE PUT TO USE ON SITES. BUILDING CONTRACTORS WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING INCREASING CARE IN APPLYING SAFETY MEASURES.+

+THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 1973, WHICH CAME IN FORCE ON MAY 1, LAY DOWN - AMONG OTHER THINGS - STRINGENT CONTROL ON THE USE OF LIFTING GEAR, CRANES AND HOISTS.+

+CONTRACTORS SHOULD REFER FREQUENTLY TO THE REGULATIONS AND SEEK THE FREE ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BY RINGING 3-691588.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 833 ACCIDENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS THIS YEAR, TWO OF THEM FATAL, MAKING IT THE SECOND WORST ACCIDENT-RISK INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE BUILDING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE MANUFACTURE OF MACHINERY, METAL PRODUCTS AND GARMENTS, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEARLY HALF OF ALL WORK ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

BREAKING DOWN THE MAJOR CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS, MR. HENDERSON SAID SOME 20 PER CENT INVOLVED MACHINERY, 13 PER CENT MANUAL HANDLING, 11 PER CENT FALLS OF PERSONS AND NINE PER CENT THE USE OF HAND TOOLS.

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/MR. HENDERSON

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MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT MOST WORKERS WERE HURT EITHER BECAUSE CORRECT WORKING PRACTICES WERE NOT FOLLOWED, MANAGEMENT HAD NOT PROVIDED SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS, OR THERE WAS NO PROPER SUPERVISION OF WORK. +AND THIS COMES ABOUT BECAUSE NEITHER WORKER, NOR FOREMAN NOR MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY TRAINED IN WORK SAFETY,+ HE SAID.

+IN VIEW OF THE WIDE RANGE OF FREE COURSES PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE, THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THIS.

+IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT INDUSTRY SHOULD APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY TRAINING. AND UNLESS INDUSTRY IS EQUIPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF ACCIDENT PREVENTION, THE WAR AGAINST THE WORK ACCIDENTS CAN NEVER BE WON,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

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WATERWORKS INSPECTOR RETIRING
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MR. YUE KAM-KAU, WATERWORKS INSPECTOR I, WILL BE RETIRING SOON AFTER 23 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILFRED KNIGHT, WILL PRESENT A FAREWELL GIFT TO MR. YUE ON BEHALF OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ON MONDAY (MAY 27).

MR. YUE FIRST JOINED THE WATERWORKS OFFICE AS AN ASSISTANT WATERWORKS INSPECTOR IN DECEMBER 1951. HE WAS PROMOTED TO WATERWORKS INSPECTOR II IN 1960 AND TO HIS SUBSTANTIVE POST IN 1968. SINCE 1969, MR. YUE HAS BEEN WORKING AS A WELFARE OFFICER FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HAVE THE OCCASION COVERED. THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 4.30 P.M. ON MONDAY IN THE P.W.D. CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD.

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MOBILE IMMIGRATION OFFICE
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PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHO WANT TO OBTAIN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ARE REMINDED OF THE SPECIAL FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE MOBILE IMMIGRATION OFFICE WHICH TOURS THE NEW TERRITORIES REGULARLY.

AS FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY), THE MOBILE OFFICE WILL BE VISITING SAN HUI AND SAN TIN ON MONDAYS, HANG HAU AND SAI KUNG ON TUESDAYS, SHA TIN ON WEDNESDAYS, SEK KONG ON THE FIRST TO THIRD THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH, CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AND TAI PO ON FRIDAYS.

THE MOBILE OFFICE WILL BE STATIONED MAINLY IN THE DISTRICTS' RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICES OR ESTATE OFFICES.

THE TYPES OF BUSINESS IT WILL CONDUCT INCLUDE THE ISSUING OF SINGLE AND MULTIPLE JOURNEY RE-ENTRY PERMITS= THE ISSUING AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATION FORMS FOR ENTRY PERMITS= CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY= NEW PASSPORTS AND RENEWALS OF PASSPORTS= THE ISSUING AND PROCESSING APPLICATION FORMS FOR UNITED KINGDOM ENTRY CERTIFICATES AS WELL AS THE ISSUING OF APPLICATION FORMS FOR NATURALISATION AND REGISTRATION AS BRITISH SUBJECTS.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN SHAUKEIWAN
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. ON ESDAY (MAY 28), TOENABLE A TEST FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE WATERWORKS OFFICE.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SUN SING STREET AND SHING ON STREET, INCLUDING SHAUKEIWAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET.

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