



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 21, 1973

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HONG KONG TO RECEIVE MORE OIL FROM CHINA

China is to ship more kerosene and diesel oil to Hong Kong.

Announcing this today, a government spokesman said that the government had been informed by the Far East Overseas Oil Co. (FEOSO) that a shipment of 5,500 tons of light diesel oil from China arrived in Hong Kong today (Wednesday). This was additional to FEOSO's normal sales, a shipment of about 3,500 tons having already arrived earlier this month.

The spokesman went on to say that FEOSO had indicated that they planned to increase imports of kerosene and light diesel oil from China.

Commenting on these developments, the Deputy Colonial Secretary and Chairman of the Oils Policy Committee, Mr. Michael Clinton, said that these additional shipments from China were in response to discussions which he had held recently with FEOSO.

"We are most grateful that China has been able to help out the people of Hong Kong in this way. These imports from China should help to minimise any difficulties that might arise later."

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WARNING AGAINST STORAGE OF KEROSENE AND LP GAS IN HOMES

Mr. A.J. Jones, Assistant Chief Fire Officer of the Fire Prevention Bureau, today appealed to members of the public not to store kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas any more than normally needed at home.

He also warned that petrol should not be stored at home under any circumstances.

Mr. Jones made this urgent plea when commenting on the stepped-up action by officers of the bureau in making special inspection of provision stores and dangerous goods dealers in connection with the fire prevention campaign.

He said officers of the bureau had visited a number of premises and made more than 15 seizures of dangerous goods during the past three days after receiving reports of instances of excessive or unauthorised storage.

Last (Tuesday) night 800 pounds of liquid petroleum gas, 100 gallons of kerosene, and 30 gallons of petrol were seized in a single operation in Hennessy Road.

The purpose of carrying out these seizures was to ensure public safety in accordance with the statutory requirements.

"At this time, when people are tending to act irrationally and irresponsibly and store or accumulate excessive quantities of dangerous goods above the exempted quantities or in excess of their licensed quantity, we must ensure that they do not pose a completely unnecessary and irresponsible hazard or danger to the remainder of the community," Mr. Jones said.

/He emphasised

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He emphasised that the increased tempo of inspection would be maintained.

In order to make the campaign a success, public co-operation was of the greatest importance, he said.

"I hope people will not be so foolish to expose themselves to unnecessary danger by storing excessive kerosene or L.P. gas at home," he added.

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HONG KONG'S TWO-WAY TRADE IN TEXTILES EMPHASISED

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. David Jordan, today deplored the inaccurate categorisation into 'exporting' and 'importing' countries and emphasised that Hong Kong was an open market -- not just a source of supply.

While Hong Kong was usually thought of as an exporting country, he said, it in fact was an importing and exporting market like most countries.

Mr. Jordan was speaking at the opening of the Textile Institute's first Asian Conference at the City Hall which is being attended by about 250 delegates from 24 countries.

Hong Kong's exports of textile products were worth over 7,600 million Hong Kong dollars in 1972, but in the same year our textile imports totalled about 5,000 million Hong Kong dollars, he said.

"And just as the value of our exports is going up again this year, so is the value of our imports," he added. "Hong Kong is a market - and an open one at that - not just a source of supply."

Mr. Jordan drew attention to the emphasis put in international discussions on 'disruptive' imports from 'low-cost supplies.'

He said it was a bit ironic to find that the developed countries are themselves the principal manufacturers and exporters both of textiles and clothing, and that by far the greater proportion of the world's textile trade is conducted by the developed countries among themselves.

/In 1970,

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In 1970, the developed countries exported - mostly to each other - over 13,000 million U.S. dollars' worth of textiles and clothing, while the developing countries' total exports were worth only 3,800 million.

Mr. Jordan said that Hong Kong's far-sighted industrialists have always recognised that in order to stay competitive, they have to move quickly in response to new ideas, new technology, new fibres and new markets.

Installation of the most modern equipment available, he added, had helped the Hong Kong industry to maintain, and in some cases improve, its competitive position in world markets.

Although Hong Kong was opposed to trade restrictions in any form, we have learned to be pragmatic and realistic.

"We have many times demonstrated our willingness to discuss mutual trade problems with any country, and the records show that we have been prepared to accept restrictions where there has appeared to be reasonable economic justification," Mr. Jordan said.

"But we have also sometimes had to accept restrictions where no real justification for them existed."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Jordan's speech are boxed for collection.

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INDUSTRIALISTS URGED TO STEP UP PRODUCTIVITY

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today urged Hong Kong industrial experts to look to increased productivity as one means of improving the community's quality of life.

"Productivity is not an end in itself," he said. "It is only part of the pursuit of greater efficiency and of overall social goals, such as a better working environment in the broadest possible sense.

"By this I mean greater safety at work, improved working conditions, reduction in environmental working hazards, reduction of work monotony and an increase in real wages."

Mr. Price was delivering the inaugural address at an Industrial Relations Seminar in Hong Kong sponsored by the International Labour Organisation and NORAD -- the Norwegian Agency for International Development.

The two-day seminar is being attended by representatives of management, unions, and the government, and experts from universities and other educational bodies.

The seminar will discuss effective management and labour relations in the context of productivity.

Mr. Price told the seminar he hoped it would also take as one of its aims the more specific definition of the social benefits which could be achieved by greater productivity.

"I suggest that it is only when this important step has been taken that it is possible, by tripartite discussions of the kind to be held during this seminar, to enhance greater productivity consciousness among employers and management, workers and unions, and in government.

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"I have no doubt at all that a better productivity consciousness can be achieved through better communication -- that is, joint consultation between management and workers -- and through better workers' education and greater interest by responsible trade union leaders."

Mr. Price said that to some it might come as a surprise to see the International Labour Organisation extending its activities beyond working conditions, legislation and labour-management relations to include the subject of productivity.

But, he said, such an attitude, "would over-look the fact that the constitution of the International Labour Organisation **requires** it to examine and consider all international, economic and financial policies and measures in the light of the fundamental criterion - as set out in the Declaration of Philadelphia - that all such policies and measures must be judged by their contribution to enable 'all human beings irrespective of race, creed or sex to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity.'

"Therefore, there is nothing at all peculiar in the International Labour Organisation's tripartite dialogue - that is, embracing employers, workers and governments - now branching out into matters of productivity."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Price's speech are boxed for collection.

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SAI KUNG VILLAGERS GET NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM

A complex system of irrigation channels and diversion weirs has been built in the valleys behind Sha Kok Mei near Sai Kung to provide better irrigation facilities for villagers in the area.

The project, which cost more than \$600,000, is part of a \$7 million scheme to improve irrigation facilities in the cultivated areas affected by the High Island Water Scheme.

The work was necessary to ensure that the long-term effects of the tapping of water did not adversely affect normal water supplies for domestic and agricultural use in the area, a spokesman for the New Territories Administration explained today.

In planning the project, he said allowance had to be made to take into account not only the current consumption for irrigating the 165 acres of cultivated land in the valley, but also possible future and more intensive cropping which would need increased supplies.

"This necessitated a distribution system which will not only make more efficient use of the water available, but will ensure that only water surplus to requirements is syphoned off to the intakes of the new reservoir."

Altogether, 10,000 feet of concrete irrigation channels and 11 diversion weirs were built.

Representatives of the 2,700 Sha Kok Mei villagers have expressed their satisfaction with the scheme.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of one of the diversion weirs constructed in the Sha Kok Mei Valley are boxed for collection.

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SHIPS ALERTED FOR HARBOUR PROCESSION

The Marine Department today advised all ships to watch out for vessels participating in the Hong Kong Festival Floating Procession this Sunday (November 25).

Shipmasters, harbour pilots and coxswains of local craft navigating in the harbour should proceed with caution and give every practicable consideration to the participating vessels, a spokesman for the department said.

The procession, which starts at 11 a.m. on Sunday, will comprise a total of 40 craft of various types and decorations, sailing at three to four knots.

They will start from Yaumatei Typhoon Shelter and proceed along the Ocean Terminal, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hunghom, North Point, Wanchai, Central and West Point before reaching the final stop in Aberdeen Harbour.

On the way, after passing the point off Hunghom, the vessels will turn right across the harbour to North Point and will sail round Buoy A1 off Central at about 1 p.m. before moving on to West Point.

The procession is expected to last five hours and should end at about 4 p.m.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

Three pre-war buildings in Central District were today declared to be in a dangerous condition by the Building Authority.

They are located at Nos. 24 and 26 Hillier Street and No. 6A Burd Street. At the same time, No. 51 Jervois Street was declared liable to become dangerous.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said these buildings were inspected as part of a comprehensive survey in the area following a complaint.

"Bulges and fractures in the load bearing blue brick walls were observed in Nos. 24 and 26 Hillier Street and 6A Burd Street, and it is considered that there is a risk of failure leading to a collapse. In addition, a considerable amount of seriously defective timber to floors was noted," he said.

He added that there were indications of movement to the brickwork at the rear of No. 51 Jervois Street and there was a danger of failure during or after the demolition of No. 6A Burd Street.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on the buildings today. The applications will be heard in Victoria District Court on December 19 at 9.30 a.m.

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TEMPORARY DISRUPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Motorists are advised that the traffic light signal at the junction of Wylie Street and Princess Margaret Road in Kowloon will be out of service due to a temporary disruption of electricity supply in King's Park from midnight tonight to 3 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

From midnight tomorrow to 3 a.m. on Friday, the traffic light signals at the junction of San Lau Street and Chatham Road; and at the Chatham Road/Wuhu Street junction will also be out of service.

In all cases, police officers will be on hand to direct traffic.

The street lighting will also be affected in the general area of Fat Kwong Street from Ma Tau Wai Road to Sheung Shing Street and Shansi Street to Yan Fung Street.

Motorists are warned to exercise care in this area.

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\$400,000 FROM COMMUNITY RELIEF TRUST FUND FOR KOWLOON BAY FIRE VICTIMS

The Social Welfare Department has made available a sum of \$400,000 from the Community Relief Trust Fund for victims of the Kowloon Bay fire to build new homes. This money will be distributed to them through the Housing Department.

Meanwhile, the City District Office, Kwun Tong, today distributed \$20 per head to the victims from the Fat Choy Fund to help them meet any urgent need of cash.

The Social Welfare Department is still supplying two meals daily to the victims.

The Department has also arranged with the Medical and Health Department to supply milk powder for babies under one year old.

Following is a list of the total number of relief articles issued to the victims by the Social Welfare Department since the outbreak of the fire on Thursday night:

Cooking pots:	465
bowls	1,747
chopsticks:	1,747 pairs
blankets:	1,802
clothing:	5 bales
towels:	1,747
soap:	1,747 cakes
tooth brushes	1,747

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SITE IDENTIFICATION EXERCISE FOR FIRE VICTIMS

A site identification process to determine the eligibility of the people who lost their homes in the squatter fire at Kowloon Bay last Thursday night was carried out smoothly today (Wednesday).

Representatives of 429 families out of more than 480 originally registered with the Housing Department turned up at the site for the exercise, although all families were invited to attend.

They were led to the site and asked to show exactly where their huts had stood.

The process was the initial step taken to weed out impostors who registered as fire victims in the hope of claiming public housing or cash grants to which they are not entitled.

A spokesman for the Housing Department said so far more than 50 families, or about 300 people, originally registered as fire victims have been sifted out as false claimants as a result of today's exercise.

Immediately after the site identification, a note was given to family representatives calling on them to turn up at the squatter control office at Kowloon Bay or at Tung Tau Estate on Friday for further processing.

The spokesman said the information collected today would be checked carefully against the department's records to see whether they tallied.

He reiterated that all genuine fire victims would be given either public housing or resited accommodation, depending on their eligibility.

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Cash grants from the community relief trust fund to enable them to rebuild and re-equip their homes will be distributed to them as soon as their eligibility has been determined.

Meanwhile, staff of the Housing Department are still working round the clock preparing a site nearby to take in the victims.

It is hoped that they can start building their new homes next week.

The livelihood of fire victims will not be affected as the new site is in the same area as the one devastated by the fire.

The spokesman repeated his appeal to the fire victims to make use of the temporary accommodation facilities available to them.

He said: "We have opened seven temporary centres but only about 300 people are staying at three of them. The others still remain unoccupied."

The centres are the Caritas Centre at Ngau Tau Kok; the Welfare Centre at Sau Mau Ping, South and Central; at Lam Tin Estate; the Kwun Tong Community Centre; Yau Tong Kaifong Association; and Cha Kwo Ling Kaifong Association.

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.