



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1975

WATSON APPOINTED AS NEW FIRE CHIEF

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. HARRY WOOD, WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE IN MID-JULY AFTER 21 YEARS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. F.M. WATSON, AT PRESENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR. MR. WATSON'S PROMOTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

MR. WOOD, WHO IS AGED 56, CAME TO HONG KONG IN 1954 AND SERVED IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1963. HE BECAME DIRECTOR IN 1970. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE SON AND ONE DAUGHTER.

MR. WATSON, AGED 43, SERVED WITH THE DIRKENHEAD FIRE BRIGADE BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT TO HONG KONG IN 1955. HE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1970 WHEN MR. WOOD WAS MADE DIRECTOR. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE SON.

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TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

A TOTAL OF 349 TRADE UNIONS WITH A DECLARED MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDING 320,000 WERE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF 1974.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS, THE MEMBERSHIP FIGURE SHOWS AN INCREASE OF 21,777 OVER THAT OF 1973. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE MEMBERSHIP OF 17 TRADE UNIONS WHICH FAILED TO SUBMIT THEIR ANNUAL RETURNS.

OF THE 349 UNIONS, 292 WERE EMPLOYEES' UNIONS, 44 EMPLOYERS' UNIONS, 12 MIXED UNIONS AND ONE TRADE UNION FEDERATION OF EMPLOYEES' UNIONS.

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975, ONE EMPLOYEES' UNION AND ONE TRADE UNION FEDERATION WERE ADDED TO THE REGISTER. THEY ARE THE ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL STAFF (N.T.A.) AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG PRINTING TRADE WORKERS' UNIONS.

AT THE SAME TIME 15 APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF ALTERATIONS CONCERNING MANAGEMENT, WELFARE BENEFITS, MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS WERE APPROVED AND REGISTERED.

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SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1975

PUBLIC URGED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA, ADVISED TODAY THAT WITH THE APPROACH OF CHOLERA SEASON THE PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST THIS AND OTHER GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WARM WEATHER.

HE SAID THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PREVENTION IS THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE - CLEAN FOOD, CLEAN WATER, WASHING HANDS BEFORE MEALS AND AFTER VISIT TO TOILETS.

HE REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT INOCULATIONS AGAINST CHOLERA AND TYPHOID WERE AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND VACCINATION CENTRES.

DR. CHOA STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE INCIDENCE OF VIRUS HEPATITIS HAD INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS, THERE WAS NO RISK OF PEOPLE CONTRACTING THE DISEASE THROUGH INOCULATION AS ALL THE INOCULATION CENTRES WERE USING DISPOSABLE SYRINGES AND NEEDLES.

THE DIRECTOR SAID WITH CHOLERA ALREADY IN EVIDENCE IN SEVERAL TERRITORIES IN THE ASIAN REGION, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS TAKING EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF THE DISEASE.

HE WARNED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN NO LOCAL CASES OF CHOLERA SINCE 1969 THE PUBLIC MUST NOT BE TEMPTED TO RELAX THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

+PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IF HONG KONG IS TO REMAIN FREE FROM CHOLERA THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHOA 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.+

ON THE QUESTION OF DRINKING WATER, THE DIRECTOR SAID WATER COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE MAINS IS PURE AND SAFE FOR DRINKING, AND DOES NOT REQUIRE TO BE BOILED.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT DANGER OF IMPURITY MIGHT ARISE WHEN THE WATER WAS STORED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME IN TANKS, DRUMS OR BUCKETS.

AS THESE CONTAINERS WERE SOMETIMES LEFT FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT CLEANING, OR OTHERWISE NOT REGULARLY OR HYGIENICALLY ATTENDED TO, THE WATER IN THEM COULD BE CONTAMINATED, HE SAID.

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 CONDITION,+ HE ADDED.