



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, January 22, 1973

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TWO-WEEK ARMS AMNESTY ANNOUNCED

Immunity For Those Handing In Explosives, Offensive Weapons

From midnight January 26 until midnight February 10, 1973, there will be an amnesty in respect of all arms and ammunition, explosive substances, fire-crackers and offensive weapons which are reported to the Police or handed in at any Police station.

The Attorney General announced this amnesty today.

The terms of the immunity conferred by this amnesty are that a person will not be subject to prosecution in respect of the possession of any arms or ammunition, explosive substance, fire-cracker or offensive weapon handed in by him to a Police station or recovered by the Police as a result of information given by him.

This immunity does not extend to criminal offences in which such arms, etc. have played a part; for example, a person surrendering a revolver will not be prosecuted for his unlawful possession but will remain liable to prosecution for any offence he has committed with it, such as a robbery.

The Attorney General commented that during 1972 there were numerous cases of firearms and other weapons being used to commit serious crime. These included 25 reported cases of robbery with firearms (as compared with 14 in 1971), and 84 reported cases of illegal possession of arms and ammunition (as compared with 36 in 1971).

/The law

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The law relating to the legal possession of arms is both concise and strict.

Before a licence is granted, the prospective licensee has to convince the licensing authority that the weapon is required for a legitimate purpose and that the arrangements for the storage of such arms are sufficient to ensure their security.

Furthermore, the licensee is subject to restrictions as to how, when and where the weapon may be used.

There are two main reasons for the strict licensing laws, firstly to prevent arms from falling into the hands of persons who wish to use them for an unlawful purpose, and secondly, to ensure the protection of ordinary citizens from unnecessary injury.

The term "arms", as referred to in the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance (Chapter 238), includes -

- (a) every firearm of any description;
- (b) every air gun; and every other kind of gun from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged;
- (c) every sword, cutlass, spear, pike, bayonet, dagger, fighting iron, flick knife, gravity knife or other deadly weapon;
- (d) every part of any such firearm gun or deadly weapon;
- (e) any gun, pistol or other propelling or releasing instrument or mechanism, from which any shell cartridge, bomb, grenade or projectile, containing any gas or chemical, could be discharged.

/By section 4

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By section 4 of the same Ordinance, no person shall, except under and in accordance with a licence issued for this purpose under the Ordinance, carry or have in his possession or under his control any arms or ammunition.

(Certain special classes of person such as Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Police Force and ships and aircraft of war, are exempt from this requirement).

The maximum penalties for contravention of the law are a fine of two thousand dollars and imprisonment for three years on summary conviction and imprisonment for life on conviction on indictment.

Fuller details of the amnesty will appear in the press later.

It is hoped that anyone who has unlicensed arms or ammunition or any explosives or fireworks in his possession will take this opportunity to put himself within the law.

He will also, by handing them in, be doing a service to the community at large by putting them out of the reach of those persons who might use them for criminal activities.

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4800 PEOPLE HELPED TO OBTAIN WORK

By Local Employment Service

The Local Employment Service of the Labour Department helped place 4,841 people in employment in 1972. It registered 28,503 job seekers and received 10,031 ordered vacancies.

The figures represented increases of 52 per cent, 73 per cent and 42 per cent over those for 1971.

The sizable increase in placement may be attributed to the fact that more employers are now making use of the Local Employment Service as a result of personal visits by its officers.

In the fourth quarter of 1972, the Local Employment Service registered 5,300 job-seekers and introduced 4,631 of them to employers for selection interview.

Of these, 1,222 were successfully placed in employment. This represents an increase of 16 per cent over the number of people placed by the Local Employment Service during the corresponding quarter of 1971.

Of the 1,222 people placed in employment during the last quarter, 322 were placed in industry, 481 in commerce, 265 in Government Service, 11 in public utilities and 43 in other establishments.

Six of the successful applicants received an initial salary of \$1,000 or more a month; 395 started work at monthly salaries of \$500 - \$999; 710 at \$300 - \$499 and 11 at below \$300.

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Currently, there are 5,496 job-seekers registered with the Service, varying from the young and inexperienced, to experienced and qualified persons looking for better employment.

The Service has on its books 578 vacancies, ranging from executives to office boys in commerce, engineers to general workers in industry and artisans to messengers in the civil service.

The Local Employment Service provides free facilities to assist employers and job-seekers alike.

Job-seekers are invited to register personally at any branch of the Service, bringing with them their identity card and a passport-size photograph.

Employers with vacancies which they wish to fill are invited to contact any office of the Service.

For the convenience of employers and job-seekers who might have difficulty in approaching the Local Employment Service during regular office hours, its Hong Kong Office at the New Rodney Block and Kowloon Office at Canton Road Government Offices now remain open during the lunch hour from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

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COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. F.K. Li, will present cheques totalling \$17,500 as compensation to two members of the public, in recognition of public-spirited conduct.

The recipients are Mr. Cheung Kam-fai and the family of the late Mr. Ng Shung-por.

The decision to make these awards was announced by Mr. G.R. Sneath, the Acting Attorney General, in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, December 13, and Mr. Li will now present the cheques on the Government's behalf.

It will be recalled that Mr. Cheung, 20, was injured last August after joining a chase for an armed robber. As a result, he received injuries to his chest and cheek. He will receive \$500.

The late Mr. Ng died in a struggle last January with three armed robbers who had intruded into his home.

His dependents will receive \$17,000.

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Note to Editors: The presentation ceremony will be held in the Social Welfare Department conference room at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

You are cordially invited to have the occasion covered. Mr. Li will make a short speech before the presentation, and the ceremony will end with tea.

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MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE IN 1972

More than eight million people moved in and out of Hong Kong last year, the Immigration Department said today.

This represents an increase of 27.19 per cent, compared with the figures for 1971.

According to provisional figures, 3,988,938 people were recorded as having legally arrived in Hong Kong last year.

In addition, there were 4,023,980 departures, making a total of 8,012,918 authorised movements (excluding transients and persons refused permission to land).

In 1971, the respective arrival and departure figures were 3,148,949 and 3,150,934, making a total of 6,299,883.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said there was also a 62.46 per cent increase in traffic over the land border at Lo Wu.

Sea travellers receiving immigration clearance during last year totalled 3,835,694 (mainly on the Hong Kong - Macau run), and air travellers 2,727,982.

The figures for 1971 were 3,220,537 and 2,187,328 respectively.

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STUDENT GROUPS TO SEE COURTS IN ACTION

Secondary students will be able to visit the law courts and see for themselves the judicial process in Hong Kong under a scheme proposed by the Judiciary.

In a letter to all school heads, the Supreme Court Registrar has invited them to organise student groups among the senior forms to attend at a convenient court, receive a talk from a Magistrate or court officer in English or Cantonese, and subsequently watch a court in session.

A spokesman for the Judiciary said the Chief Justice desired that the young people should be given more opportunity to become better acquainted with the administration of justice in the courts.

Occasionally in the past, he said groups of students had visited the Supreme Court and, after being given a short talk on judicial procedure, had attended one or more of the courts to observe trials in progress.

Subsequent comments by both students and teachers had clearly indicated that this practice was of considerable value and greatly appreciated.

The spokesman also pointed out that, in fact, almost without exception, the courts were open to the public at all times, and groups need not be organised.

"But this organised student scheme promises to be an excellent way of introducing young people to the judicial system. It is hoped it will create in them a continuing interest in the judicial process," he added.

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ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS CAMPAIGN 1973

During the week ending on January 13, 1973, a total of 7,657 doses of the anti-poliomyelitis vaccine was administered, according to figures released by the Medical and Health Department today.

The 1973 Anti-Poliomyelitis Campaign began on December 28, 1972, and will continue until February 2, 1973.

The second phase is due to begin in March.

Of the 7,657 doses administered in the second week of the campaign, 1,192 doses were administered on the Island, 3,669 doses in Kowloon, and 2,796 in the New Territories.

Since the campaign began on December 28, 1972, the total number of doses administered amounted to 12,877.

The vaccine is available free at all government general clinics and maternal and child health centres.

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CHOLERA QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

The Port Health Authority announced today that quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Sabang (Port) in Indonesia because of cholera.

Meanwhile, quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Visakhapatnam (Port) in India because of cholera have been removed.

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JURY LIST TO BE POSTED

Mr. J.G. Wilson, the Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, announced today that a further list of common jurors was posted on the Notice Board near the lift inside the south-west entrance to the Supreme Court Building today (Monday).

This list will remain posted for 14 days during which any person may apply by notice in writing to the Registrar requiring that his name or the name of some other person be posted or removed upon cause duly assigned in such notice.

The Registrar shall in his discretion, post or remove such name accordingly and shall if necessary alter the List.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of premises in the Peak area will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Tuesday (January 23) to 6 a.m. the next morning.

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to make connection to a fresh water main at Pollock's Path.

The premises to be affected include No. 6 in Lloyd Path, No. 4 Findlay Path, Nos. 8-36 and 19-37 in Severn Road and Nos. 8-28 and 17-51 in Barker Road.

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ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR KAT O RESIDENTS

Some 4,000 residents of Kat O Island are to get electricity supply from the China Light and Power Co. Ltd. on Wednesday (January 24) following a "switch-on" ceremony to be officiated by Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories.

The ceremony will take place at 11.30 a.m.

It will be attended by, among others, Sir Sidney Gordon, Unofficial Member of the Executive Council; Mr. Horace Kadoorie, Director of the China Light and Power Company and Messrs. H.S. Grewal and A.N. Savage, out-going and in-coming District Officer, Taipo.

At present, Kat O Island, situated east of Sha Tau Kok, gets its electricity from a privately-operated power generating plant.

The new arrangement has been made possible by the China Light and Power Co. Ltd. which laid a submarine power cable linking the island with the New Territories.

It is hoped that the general livelihood of the residents on Kat O Island will be improved with the supply of electricity.

Note to Editors: Reporters and/or photographers assigned to cover the "switch-on" ceremony are asked to assemble at the Tsim Sha Tsui Sub-Pool (behind the Post Office) at 7.50 a.m.

From there they will be taken by van (AM3274) to Tai Po Kau Ferry Pier where a launch will be waiting to ferry them to Kat O Island.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.