

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Thursday, August 3, 1972

GOVERNMENT USING OWN AIRCRAFT FOR RELIEF MISSION TO PHILIPPINES

The Government has donated a quantity of anti-cholera vaccine and anti-biotic drugs for the relief of flood victims in the Philippines.

The medical relief will be flown early tomorrow (Friday) morning to Manila by the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force. It is the first time that the Government has sent its own aircraft abroad for a mission.

Carrying out the mission will be the twin-engined Britten-Norman "Islander" aircraft recently acquired by the RHKAAF primarily for aerial survey, search-and-rescue duties and advanced pilot-training.

The aircraft will take off at 6.30 a.m. tomorrow and will arrive in Manila five hours later. The trip to and from the Philippines capital will cover a total of 1,260 miles.

The \$1.2 million aircraft will be piloted by Flt. Lt. Bob Lee. With him will be Flt. Lt. John Shawcross, the co-pilot, and Flying Officer I.R.S. Robertson, the Navigator.

The medical relief consists of 20,000 doses of anti-cholera vaccine and 80,000 tablets of Erythromycin, an anti-biotic. The drugs were put on board the "Islander" aircraft this afternoon ready for the mission.

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Commenting on the medical relief flight, Flt. Lt. Shawcross said: "It's something really unique. Not only is the Government sending its own aircraft abroad, but it's also going to be an extension of our activities, which I feel is quite interesting."

After the unloading of the medical supplies at Manila, the aircraft will refuel and then fly back to Hong Kong.

"We'll leave Manila at about 1.30 p.m. tomorrow and should be able to be back here at about 6 p.m.," said Flt. Lt. Shawcross.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the drugs being put on to the "Islander" aircraft at Kai Tak are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press Boxes this evening.

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CROSS HARBOUR CONGRATULATIONS FROM MACAU

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, has received a telegram of congratulations from the Governor of Macau on the opening of Hong Kong's \$320 million cross-harbour tunnel.

In his message, General Nobre de Carvalho said: "In this happy day of the opening of the cross-harbour tunnel I congratulate your Excellency wishing all the best for Hong Kong and its population that should be proud to have such a magnificent and wonderful engineering work as a very important tool for progress and prosperity. My best compliments."

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SIU LAM HOSPITAL ADMITS FIRST PATIENTS

The Siu Lam Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped has begun to receive patients, and the first 25 seriously subnormal children have been admitted.

Future intake will continue to be in groups of 25 patients until the hospital's capacity of 200 has been reached. This is expected to be at the end of the year.

This phasing of admission is intended to enable both the patients and staff to adjust themselves to the new environment. The position will be reviewed at the end of the year, and the hospital has been planned in such a way that there will be no difficulty expanding it by another 100 beds, if necessary.

When Siu Lam was originally conceived in the early 1960s, following a recommendation by Dr. L.T. Hilliard in his report on the care of mentally retarded children, it was felt that a hospital for 200 severely mentally retarded would meet the requirements.

The Hilliard Report divided mental retardation among children into three categories -- the least severe to be educated by the Education Department in special schools; the medium grade to be trained by the Social Welfare Department; and the severe grade, those neither fit for education nor for training, to be the responsibility of the Medical and Health Department at Siu Lam.

To assess the degree of retardation so as to determine into which of these categories they fall, an assessment team of representatives of the three departments concerned has been studying cases known to it.

Only those regarded by the team as severely mentally retarded have been recommended for admission to Siu Lam.

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HONG KONG REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Hong Kong is to be represented at the 16th International Conference on Social Welfare in the Hague by a delegation of 30, headed by the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee.

The delegation includes representatives from government departments, the two universities, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and voluntary agencies.

The Social Work Training Fund is providing a grant to cover half the cost of attendance for 25 delegates.

The group is leaving for the conference on Saturday (August 5) at 4 p.m. The conference begins on August 13, and will continue until August 19, but before that, a number of delegates will be attending the International Congress of Schools of Social Work, which begins on August 8.

In connection with the conference, Hong Kong is also taking part in an exhibition at the Hague stressing the theme of progress in the 1970s.

Photographs and text jointly illustrate aspects of activity such as improved housing, welfare, medical care, transport, and communications. Also, a colourful brochure on the theme has been prepared for circulation among delegates.

The conference is organised by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), a permanent world organisation for individuals and agencies concerned with meeting the social welfare needs of people.

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The ICSW has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, FAO, and other international organisations.

The basic units of the ICSW are its national committees and its international organisations and membership. In Hong Kong, the chairman of the ICSW Committee is Miss Patricia Nye.

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Note to Editors: A reproduction of Hong's Kong's exhibition at the Hague in connection with this conference, in brochure form, is distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes.

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COLONIAL SECRETARY RETURNS

The Colonial Secretary, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, returned to Hong Kong yesterday after leave in Britain.

He was met by the Acting Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. G.P. Llyod.

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will leave Hong Kong on Saturday (August 5) for five weeks leave in the United Kingdom.

During Sir Murray's absence Sir Hugh will be the Acting Governor.

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TWO FOOTBRIDGES FOR CHOI HUNG ROAD

People living in the densely populated Wong Tai Sin and San Po Kong areas will soon be able to cross busy Choi Hung Road in greater safety.

A pedestrian footbridge is at present being built across the road at its junction with Sha Tin Pass Road, while plans have been drawn up for another one some 180 yards further down Choi Hung Road to connect Tai Shing Street and Tseuk Luk Street.

These overhead footbridges will make it possible to separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic at the two busy road junctions and to ensure a smoother traffic flow.

As steel girders for one of the footbridges will be laid across Choi Hung Road late tomorrow night, a section of the road between Tai Shing Street and Sha Tin Pass Road will be closed from 11.55 p.m. tomorrow until 6 a.m. on Saturday (August 5).

Alternative traffic routing will be introduced and appropriate signs will be placed there to guide motorists.

The plans for the second footbridge, which will affect a small area of private land, can be inspected at the Central Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices, West Wing Entrance, Hong Kong; the Crown Lands and Survey Office, 10/F., Kowloon Government Offices, Nathan Road, or at the City District Office (Wong Tai Sin), Paris Theatre Building, King Fuk Street, San Po Kong.

Any person objecting to the plan or wishing to make a claim for compensation must send his objection or claim in writing to the Director of Public Works to reach him not later than September 4 and October 4, 1972 respectively.

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PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY FOR NEW TERRITORIES

The first pedestrian subway for the New Territories is to be built at Hung Shui Kiu, near Ping Shan as part of the Castle Peak Road Improvement Scheme.

The road project will provide a dual two-lane carriageway from Castle Peak to Yuen Long. When completed, both traffic flow and speed are expected to increase considerably, and the subway will provide a safe crossing for pedestrians at this busy section.

The pedestrian subway will be 102 feet long and 12 feet wide. Ten-foot-wide ramps and staircases will be constructed at each end.

Ancillary works include the installation of lighting and pumps to prevent the subway from flooding.

Construction is expected to begin next month and take about six months to complete.

Hung Shui Kiu is at the turn off to Lau Fau Shan.

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RECITAL BY FORMER WINNER IN SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL

A former winner in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival -
Miss Cynthia Fok - who has made a name for herself in parts of America, is
to give a recital at the City Hall Concert Hall on Saturday week (August 12).

Miss Fok has been away from Hong Kong for more than six years, and
has returned to visit her parents after graduating from the Cleveland
Institute of Music with a masters degree in Piano and Durythmics.

Born in Hong Kong, she received her education at the St. Stephen
Girls' College. She obtained a scholarship enabling her to study for
her first degreè at Wittenberg University. Later, she enrolled at the
Cleveland Institute.

Miss Fok has given many recitals in cities of the mid-western
states in America, including Cleveland, Cincinnati and Dayton, and at the
Springfield Arts Festival, where she won the concerto competition with
the Wittenberg Orchestra.

Her concert in Hong Kong is being sponsored by the Urban Council
and the Music Society of Hong Kong.

Tickets at \$1 (for students), \$3 and \$5 are available at the
City Hall Box Office daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLIDAY

The Post Office announced today that there will be one mail delivery on Monday (August 7) which is a general holiday.

Certain post offices will be closed on this day, but the following will open for business from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon:-

General Post Office; Kowloon Central; Tsim Sha Tsui; Aberdeen; Hennessy Road; King's Road; North Point; Sai Ying Pun; Shau Kei Wan; Sheung Wan; Wan Chai; Cheung Chau; Mui Wo; Peng Chau; Tai O; Cheung Sha Wan; Kowloon City; Kwun Tong; Mong Kok; Sham Shui Po; Kam Tin; San Tin; Sha Tau Kok; Sha Tin; Shek Wu Hui; Tai Po; Tuen Mun San Hui; Tsuen Wan; Yuen Long.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN KWUN TONG

Water supply to a number of premises in Kwun Tong will be interrupted for five hours on Saturday (August 5) from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test in the Kwun Tong area.

The area affected is bounded by Sau Mau Ping Road, Hiu Kwong Street, Sau Ming Road and Sau Mau Path, including Sau Mau Ping Resettlement Blocks 19 and 31.

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TEACHERS PAY ISSUE

The following statement was issued by the Senior Civil Service

Council:

The Senior Civil Service Council at its meeting this evening was unable to reach agreement on the Official Side's proposal that the remaining issue in dispute - the scale for Certificated Masters - should be referred to some members of the 1971 Salaries Commission invited to reconvene for the purpose.

One association represented on the Staff Side regretfully decided that it must now withdraw from the agreements previously reached in the Council concerning teachers **structure and salaries.**

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1971 SALARIES COMMISSION MAY CONSIDER TEACHERS PAY ISSUE

The Government will consider inviting some members of the 1971 Salaries Commission to re-assemble in Hong Kong to give their advice and independent views on the dispute over the salary scale for Certificated Masters.

This was announced tonight after a meeting of the Senior Civil Service Council had failed to resolve the deadlock over this issue.

The Council met this afternoon to discuss the proposed new structure and salaries for teachers.

The Council had previously reached agreement on all major outstanding issues except the salary scale for Certificated Masters. However, the Staff Side of the Council still rejected the Official Side's offer of a Certificated Masters' scale of \$1,175 to \$1,750 per month. This offer represented an average twelve per cent increase over the present scale of \$1,044 to \$1,598 per month for Certificated Masters. As an alternative to this scale the Government offered to implement now a scale of \$1,100 to \$1,750 per month and to seek advice on it from some members of the Salaries Commission. This offer has also been rejected.

A Government spokesman said: "Because deadlock has now been reached on this particular matter, it is considered that, to be fair to the teachers, independent advice should be obtained from the people who reviewed salaries of the remainder of the public service. The Government therefore will consider inviting members of the 1971 Salaries Commission to re-assemble so that their advice can be sought on the Certificated Masters' scale having regard to the best interests of the teaching profession as a whole.

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"In the meantime a new Certificated Masters' salary scale of \$1,100 to \$1,750 per month will be implemented so that they will be able to receive back pay dating from April 1, 1971."

All the various other aspects of the new structure and salaries for teachers which had been agreed within the Senior Civil Service Council will be similarly implemented.

The total cost of implementing the new structure is likely to be between \$50 and \$60 million a year on top of the present cost of teachers' salaries which amounts to about \$340 million a year.

Government originally offered a salary of \$1,025 to \$1,750 for Certificated Masters. The decision to grant them an increased starting point of \$1,100 will alone cost almost \$15 million per year.

The Staff Side's proposed scale would have cost an additional \$40 million a year, he added.

The scales which had been agreed for other teachers will apply to teachers in aided schools as well as those in Government schools. The spokesman stressed that these generally represented very substantial increases in pay for the 14,000 teachers in aided schools.

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Release time: 8.30 p.m.