DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, November 24, 1973

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FISH FARMERS RECEIVE ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR LOSSES DUE TO OIL SPILLAGE

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Advanced payments were made by the government to fish farmers in Picnic Bay today for losses of fish suffered by them following the oil spillage at Ap Lei Chau two weeks ago.

Announcing this, a spokesman for the New Territories Administration said that the fish farmers in Picnic Bay were accustomed to selling their fish daily and they had suffered an immediate loss of income after the spillage. Some 50 piculs of fish had died in the period up to November 20, 1973.

"Although it is considered that the government is under no obligation to make any payments in respect of the oil spillage, it has been decided to make these payments to relieve the hardship which has occurred," he said.

The advanced payments are being made by the District Officer Island against losses established by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in conjunction with staff of the District Office. "The fish farmers are being paid the market price for the fish lost," the spokesman continued, " and the payment will help to tide them over a difficult period."

Meanwhile, investigations by experts in marine ecology are continuing into the immediate effects and long term implications of the oil spillage on the marine life in the area.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the distribution of payments are boxed for collection.

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NEW LAI CHI KOK BEACH ROAD

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A new road will be built early next year at Lai Chi Kok in Kowloon to improve traffic flow in the area.

The road, provisionally named the New Lai Chi Kok Beach Road, will be approximately 1,400 feet long, and will lead from the existing Lai Chi Kok Beach Road to Lai Wan Road, running along the north-eastern boundary of the Mei Foo Sun Chuen Stages V and VI.

A 44-foot wide concrete carriageway will be constructed to accommodate two-way traffic, and 12-foot footpaths will be provided on both sides of the road.

Modifications are to be carried out at the junction of the new road and Lai Chi Kok Beach Road to improve traffic movement.

In future, traffic from Kowloon to Lai Chi Kok Beach and the Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park will be able to move along Lai Chi Kok Road, turn under the ramp leading to the Lai Chi Kok Bridge, then into the new road passing to the north of Mei Foo Sun Chuen and thence into Lai Wan Road.

When the new road is ready, the section of the present Lai Chi Kok Beach Road between Lai Wan Road and the bridge ramp will be converted into a one-way road running eastward.

Tenders are now being invited and construction of the new road is expected to begin in January next year, and will take about 12 months to complete.

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HONG KONG YOUTH SHOW GREATER SOCIAL AWARENESS

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The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, today said Hong Kong's youth were becoming more socially aware as evidenced in the rich and deep expression of the structural designs entered in the Young People's World creative design exhibition at Kowloon Park.

"Youth today are regarded as a most important group in society," he said. "We should assist them to become involved in community affairs and to render their services to the community."

Mr. Topley was speaking at the opening of the exhibition which was organised by the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department as part of the Festival of Hong Kong.

The theme of the exhibition is 'social consciousness of young people and their expectation towards society,' and features 30 exhibits reflecting the thoughts of the participants.

Mr. Topley said this year the results were extremely good. He added: "I hope that youth are not viewing this as an outlet only but for real action of improvement and betterment of society. With the support and contribution from young people, Hong Kong will certainly benefit a lot."

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

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WATCHMAN TO RECEIVE $6,500 FOR BRAVERY

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Note to Editors: The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, will present a cheque for $6,500 to Mr. Chan Leung at 12 noon on Tuesday (November 27). The presentation ceremony will be held in the conference room of the Social Welfare Department at Lee Gardens, 4th floor, Hysan Avenue, Hong Kong.

This sum was approved by the Legislative Council as an award to Mr. Chan as compensation for injuries he sustained in preventing a crime.

Mr. Chan is employed as a watchman by fruit stall owners in Shek Lung Street, Yau Ma Tei.

On the evening of November 12 this year, while on patrol he prevented a man from robbing four woman hawkers and received a chopper wound on his left shoulder for which he had to spend a week in hospital.

You are cordially invited to cover the presentation ceremony.

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TRAFFIC RE-ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

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New traffic arrangements will be introduced at the Hung Hom end of the cross-harbour tunnel as from Monday (November 26) in order to avoid the risk of accidents in the tunnel approaches.

Under the changes, no vehicles will be allowed to turn right in the approach road to the Hung Hom entrance of the tunnel into Yuk Choi Road.

Northbound vehicles coming from Hong Kong Island through the tunnel will have access by way of the slip road from the tunnel approaches to Yuk Choi Road, while all other vehicles will have access via Chatham Road.

Meanwhile in Kwun Tong, the road between blocks 1 and 2 of the Kwuntong flatted factory estate will be re-routed one-way in a clockwise direction as from 10 a.m. on Tuesday (November 27).

At the same time, Bute Street between Portland Street and Nathan Road will be re-routed one-way to eastbound traffic.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO CANADA

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The Director of Commerce and Industry today announced the implementation of an export authorisation scheme to make available to the trade free yardage in the cotton terry towels, blouses and trousers categories for export to Canada during the textile year ending September 30, 1974.

All applications received by December 6 will be considered together and approved on a proportionate basis, if necessary. Any balances remaining thereafter will be made available on a first-come-first-served basis, the Director said.

Details of the scheme and the quantities available for application are set out in notice to exporters which will be issued on Monday (November 26).

Trade associations and companies on the department's mailing list will receive copies of the notice shortly.

Anyone wishing to seek further information is invited to contact either of the following officers of the Department:-

Mr. D.L.S. Ip - Assistant Trade Officer
Tel. No. 5-247317

Mr. C.S.K. Lo - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. 5-445666

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EIGHT HONG KONG SCHOLARSHIP AWARD-HOLDERS
Study At Universities In Britain

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A teacher, a university demonstrator, a shift supervisor of a dyeing works, two university tutors and three doctors from Hong Kong are among 600 award-holders studying at universities in Britain under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in the current academic year.

The Hong Kong award-holders have been selected by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom from among those nominated as candidates by the local Commonwealth Scholarships Selection Committee.

The eight award-holders from Hong Kong are Mr. Yuen Shu-wah, Mr. Ho Chun-chak, Mr. Chu Kwong-yung, Mr. Alfred Lin Ho-yuke, Mr. Stephen Wong Siu-lun, Dr. Patrick Chan Ki-wing, Dr. Ko Sai-cheong and Dr. Ronald Paul Ng.

Mr. Yuen, a teacher in Ying Wa College, is studying Chemical Engineering at the University College of Swansea; Mr. Ho, a demonstrator in the Department of Mathematics, University of Hong Kong, is studying Computer Science at the University of Birmingham; and Mr. Chu, shift Supervisor of the China Dyeing Works Ltd., is studying Colour Chemistry at the University of Leeds.

Mr. Lin, a tutor in the History Department, University of Hong Kong, is studying Chinese History at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Mr. Wong, a part-time tutor in the Sociology Department, Chinese University of Hong Kong, is studying Sociology at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

/Dr. Chan, ...

Dr. Chan, Lecturer in Surgery, University of Hong Kong, is studying Surgery at the University of Glasgow; Dr. Ko, Registrar, University Medical Unit, Queen Mary Hospital, is studying Paediatrics at the University of London while Dr. Ng, Clinical Lecturer, University Department of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, is studying Medicine at the University College Hospital Medical School, London.

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INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OMNIBUSES

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The Transport Department announced today that, with effect from January 1 next year, no application for relicensing of any public or private omnibus will be entertained unless the vehicle has passed an inspection made by a Motor Vehicle Inspector of the department.

Inspections of all omnibuses are carried out at the Motor Vehicle Inspection Centre, Long Yuet Street, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon.

Owners of public and private omnibuses are requested to book early for an inspection either by telephone (3-644555) or in person.

They are reminded that it is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to ensure that an inspection is made before the expiry of the current licence.

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LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

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The dispute involving the Hip Shing Timber Company Limited and 30 of its workers following a phased close-down of the timber processing section has been amicably settled by the Labour Department.

The dispute broke out on November 6 over the question of long service bonus.

Officers of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department stepped in soon after direct negotiation between the management and the retrenched workers reached a deadlock. Three conciliation meetings were subsequently held in the Tsuen Wan Office of the Service where the parties to the dispute finally reached an agreement.

Under the agreement, the retrenched workers yesterday (Friday) each received one month's wages in lieu of notice, year-end bonus equivalent to one month's wages, long service bonus at 22 days' wages per year's service, and ex-gratia payment of about 15 days' wages. The total amount involved was in the region of $140,000.

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IMPLEMENT FUEL SAVING MEASURES

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All government departments are now taking steps to conserve electricity as part of a concerted effort to reduce consumption by up to 15 per cent as a precautionary measure due to the uncertainty in the world oil situation.

While fuel stocks at present are normal, the Chairman of the Oil Policy Committee, Mr. M.D.A. Clinton, has impressed on department heads the prudency of voluntary restraints now as a matter of precaution.

"This order of cutback does not in our judgement warrant instituting specific rationing schemes but, as a matter of prudence, we are devising contingency plans and some mandatory controls may eventually have to be imposed if voluntary restraint does not come up to expectations or if the supply situation deteriorates," he said.

It was aimed, he said, to achieve a reduction of 15 per cent across the board in every department. The emphasis was on electricity as this was derived from fuel oil which was most likely to be restricted and which was essential to industry and could not be hoarded.

However, savings could also be made on petrol and light diesel oil, Mr. Clinton pointed out, and he requested department heads to consider whatever suitable measures without impairing the efficiency of departments or imposing undue hardship on staff.

The Oil Distribution Committee had examined the situation in the light of the expected cutback and had roughly determined priorities for the maintenance of fuel supplies, said Mr. Clinton.

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These included essential services, the manufacturing industry, and public transport services. "There are many more complex aspects of these priorities," he added, " and these will be determined in consultation with departments over the weeks ahead."

Mr. Clinton has requested department heads to inform him within the next two weeks of the economies they intended introducing or had already introduced.

In due course, he added, the Director of Oil Supplies would be asking department heads to forward returns showing the actual quantities of electricity and oil products saved.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Clinton's picture are boxed.

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Release time: 4.00 p.m.