



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, December 7, 1973

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REGULATIONS FOR CONTROL OF OIL SUPPLIES

The Government has introduced wide-ranging powers under emergency regulations to deal with any possible fuel shortage.

The Director of Oil Supplies, Mr. Roy Porter, made two orders under these regulations today. The first restricts the use of certain lighting throughout the day and most hours of darkness.

The order prohibits, except between 6 pm and 10.30 pm, the use of neon and electric lights for advertising; electric lights for display on or in buildings, including lighting in shops for displaying articles in windows and decorative lights; and electric lights for floodlighting recreation, entertainment and sporting events.

Mr. Porter said today that the restrictions would come into force from midnight on Sunday (December 9).

The maximum penalty for contravening the order is a fine of \$30,000 and six months imprisonment.

A second order also gazetted today, prohibits filling stations from supplying motorists with petrol, diesel and oils in containers. This is aimed at stopping hoarding and also comes into effect from midnight on Sunday.

The maximum penalty for breaches of this order is a fine of \$5,000 and three months imprisonment.

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The Emergency (Control of Oil) Regulations 1973 were approved by the Governor in Council this week and gazetted this morning. Among other things they provide for:-

- * the regulation of the supply and consumption of oil, electricity and gas;
- * the price at which oil may be supplied;
- * the regulation of the use of vehicles on roads and the use of all forms of transport, including ferries, aircraft and ships; and
- * the requisitioning of oil stocks.

Should any of these measures become necessary, the Director of Oil Supplies is backed up by tough regulations for their enforcement. These include the powers of entry, inspection and arrest; powers to require any person to keep books and returns which he considers essential; powers to provide against obstruction of the Director or his staff in carrying out their duties; and powers to give directions.

The regulations carry stiff penalties for anyone contravening any orders which may subsequently be made by the Director.

The heaviest penalty, a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for two years, can be imposed on a supplier who contravenes or fails to comply with any directions given to him on the storage, supply, use or disposal of any oil.

Mr. Porter said that the regulations have been introduced to provide the means for controlling oil stocks in Hong Kong.

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He continued: "The powers contained in the emergency regulations are wide, but these are necessary in view of the uncertainty of the world oil situation. The Government must be able to act swiftly should the need arise."

Mr. Porter emphasised that it did not follow that all these powers will be used. The public had already shown a fair response to the Government's appeal to save electricity and fuel.

"Even though it will be legal to have advertising and display lighting on during the specified hours, it would nevertheless be helpful if advertisers could restrict the use of neon signs within this period", he added.

"Although stocks are normal at the moment, it would be irresponsible of the Government to assume that Hong Kong will not be affected by the world wide fuel shortage. It is obviously prudent to take further measures at this stage to conserve fuel stocks," he concluded.

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GOVERNOR OUTLINES FURTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE PRISONS SYSTEM

An inspectorate will be set up shortly to regularly examine and report on the efficiency and functioning of all prison institutions in Hong Kong, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, announced today.

A special unit was also being planned, he added, "to co-ordinate intelligence and other work in the Prisons Department, against triads, narcotics and corruption."

Speaking at the annual parade of the Prisons Department at Stanley, the Governor said these measures followed the disturbances at Stanley Prison last April which demonstrated the need to modernise facilities there and to review the organization and management of the department.

He said: "Many changes have been made, or are in hand." These included the strengthening of senior management to take care of various specialised aspects of prison work such as prison industries, vocational training, nursing and after-care.

Additional posts were also being created at the middle management level to ensure that specific tasks, particularly dealing with security, receive closer attention. "Coupled with this is the progressive and continuing introduction of new security measures at Stanley Prison itself."

Commenting on the detention centre scheme, Sir Murray noted that the success of the first detention centre had led to a second one being built this year, and had encouraged the government to believe that it should make such centres a permanent feature in the fight against crime.

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Many of the detainees' parents had praised the achievements of the centres in handling their sons, he said and this proved the value of the prison officers' efforts.

The Governor commended the prison officers for their "high degree of discipline and initiative" and said the community appreciated and respected the contribution they made to public safety.

Earlier, Sir Murray inspected the parade of 10 contingents comprising about 230 officers from various prisons and centres operated by the department.

During the ceremony, he presented Colonial Prison Service Medals to six officers and three trade instructors, and Colonial Prison Service Clasps to eight officers.

Lady MacLehose was among the guests attending the parade.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Governor's speech are distributed as a special supplement to today's D.I.B.

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AIM OF RESITING PLB STANDS IN CENTRAL CLARIFIED

Govt Not Trying To Squeeze Mini-Buses Out Of Business Says Mr. Wilson

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Brian Wilson, today reiterated that the new traffic management scheme for public light buses is aimed at improving traffic flow in Central District.

He described allegations that the government is trying to put PLB's in Central out of business as totally unfounded.

"What the government is trying to do," he explained, "is to shift PLB loading points to the outskirts of Central where there are less congested access routes."

The Commissioner said that this would neither reduce the volume of PLB business nor cause problems for passengers, because the new loading points were not too far away and offered adequate space.

Mr. Wilson further pointed out that by shifting the loading points, the government had to set aside valuable land in Central for new PLB termini.

The provision of more suitable loading points, he said, would not only improve traffic flow in Central area but also enable passengers to board the PLB's in safety.

"It is because of these that the government has decided to go ahead with the scheme," Mr. Wilson said.

The first stage of the scheme to be introduced on Sunday (December 9) will prohibit public light buses from entering Gilman Street (between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central) and the section of Wing Wo Street, between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central.

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At the same time, a new public light bus stand, situated at the Jubilee Street Ferry Concourse, will be opened.

This new off-street terminal, capable of holding 20 minibuses, is expected to prove convenient to intending passengers and will also ensure that public light buses do not pick up passengers in congested side streets.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the new public light bus stand outside the Vehicular Ferry Pier in Central District are boxed.

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ALLOWANCE FOR AIDED TEACHERS AND STAFF

Teachers and other eligible staff in aided schools who receive salaries of up to approximately \$4,000 a month, will receive an allowance from December 1 like their government counterparts.

Announcing this today, a government spokesman said the allowance in the male scale ranges from \$75 a month to \$200 a month.

He said: "A circular will be issued shortly to schools in the aided sector authorizing payment where possible in December. All those eligible to receive this allowance should be paid not later than January 1974."

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BUILDING FREEZE IN MID-LEVELS TO BE EXTENDED

The temporary restriction on building development in Pok Fu Lam and Mid-Levels is to be extended for a further 11 months under amending legislation which will shortly be introduced in the Legislative Council.

The restrictions, contained in the Temporary Restriction of Building Development (Pok Fu Lam and Mid-Levels) Ordinance, were introduced on August 2, 1973, and are due to expire on January 31, 1974.

Basically, the Ordinance empowers the Building Authority to refuse to approve plans for new buildings in the two areas for a period of six months as from July 4 this year. Modifications of leases where they are required to permit re-development will also not be granted.

The measures were introduced in an attempt to forestall serious traffic problems which would result if building continued to be unrestricted in the areas.

The restrictions apply to the area of Pok Fu Lam from Mount Davis to Wah Fu Estate and in the Mid-Levels between Caine Road/Bonham Road and the 700-foot contour bounded on the east by Glenealy and extending to the west as far as Kotewall Road and the University of Hong Kong.

Commenting on the proposed extension of the restrictions, a Public Works Department spokesman said consultants had conducted an intensive traffic study in the two areas during the past four months.

"In the light of the recommendations in the traffic study it is clear that further restrictions on development in these two areas will be necessary pending a solution of the problem of access to Pok Fu Lam."

The additional time is therefore needed for detailed study of the consultants' recommendations and for the selection of the more effective forms of traffic management in the two areas.

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BETTER LIGHTING FOR OLD ESTATES

Lighting in the central-corridor type public housing estates is to get better. Six blocks in Tsz Wan Shan Estate have just been rewired and ceiling lights have been installed in every corridor bay and on every staircase and entrance hall.

Mr. Ralph Husband, Assistant Director of Housing, said the improvements were an integral part of a multi-million dollar project to create a better environment for tenants.

"This is just a start," he said. "In the next two or three years, we will carry out improvements, including lighting improvements to all 276 blocks of the Mark III and onward central corridor type at a cost of more than 3.5 million dollars."

Mr. Husband pointed out that the improvements did not run counter to the energy conservation moves being urged by government.

"Public areas in this type of block have long been in need of better lighting," he said. "The latest addition will merely bring them up to an acceptably normal standard."

The earliest estate blocks have outside balcony access and the need for improved lighting is not so great. But in later blocks, access to households is by a long internal corridor. The old standard of a ceiling light in every third bay is not considered adequate.

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"The reason we are having a go at Tsz Wan Shan Estate first," Mr. Husband went on, "is that it is the most populous of all Group B estates and all 63 blocks there are Mark III to VI, which need to be improved."

Meanwhile, re-wiring work is at hand for seven more blocks on the estate. It should be completed early next February.

Mr. Cheng Hung Kai, Estate Manager of Tsz Wan Shan Estate, said tenants' reaction to the improvements has been most favourable.

"Many tenants said increased lighting should have some deterrent effect on criminals. It has also made things more convenient for tenants especially for those who have to return home late at night," he said.

In an effort to conserve energy, only alternate ceiling lights are switched on during the day time while at night they are turned on to the full.

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SECOND DESIGN HONOUR FOR HONG KONG ARCHITECT

A government architect has been awarded another medal for hospital design.

He is Mr. Edwin Wong of the Public Works Department's Architectural Office who received a silver for excellence in architecture this (Friday) evening from the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. The award was made to Mr. Wong for his design of the Kowloon Hospital West Wing.

It is the second time Mr. Wong has been honoured for hospital design. In 1963, the Royal Institute of British Architects awarded him and another P.W.D. architect a bronze medal for their design of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, one of the largest and most up-to-date in Asia.

Kowloon Hospital West Wing, which provides 586 beds for the rehabilitation and after-care of patients, was completed in 1970. In his design, Mr. Wong laid particular stress on economy of space and he achieved this remarkably well through a special lay-out of wards -- each of which has two sub-units sharing common treatment and service facilities.

The lay-out reduces walking distance and saves circulation area without affecting the standard of accommodation. This functional simplicity was developed from experience gained from the design of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and has been adopted as the standard for the new Princess Margaret Hospital at Lai Chi Kok which is to open next year.

Describing the new ward concept which has won him the new honour, Mr. Wong said it was designed with basic consideration to Hong Kong's particular social and economic conditions.

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"It was a complete departure from usual practices and in the three years of operation of the new hospital, it has proved satisfactory from both a functional and a medical point of view," he said.

Mr. Wong, who worked as an architect in New Zealand and England before joining the P.W.D. team in Hong Kong in 1957, emphasized the importance of team work in architecture.

"Every design of a building may be conceived by one architect," he said, "but it takes a whole team to translate the idea to reality.

"The complexity of building a hospital is enormous and every aspect of the building industry participates in the work in order to achieve the initial concept."

In particular, Mr. Wong was appreciative of the contribution of one of his assistants, Mr. Johnson Lau, who has since joined the Chinese University as a Senior Architect.

Kowloon Hospital West Wing is not only an achievement in that it is a successful building; in terms of economy and design, it could be invaluable as a prototype for the further study of the development of medical facilities planned by the government for the next ten years.

At the handing-over ceremony of the hospital in 1970, the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G. H. Choa, acknowledged its merit and described it as a 'milestone' for his department.

Not only did it provide more beds for a growing population, Dr. Choa said, but it also met "changing needs in the pattern of medical services for the community".

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of Mr. Wong and a model of the Kowloon Hospital are boxed for collection.

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NEW DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE OPENED

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, said today the government "means business" in tackling the drug problem in Hong Kong.

He said this was borne out by the fact that the government was now re-organising itself to deal with the drug problem and had a Commissioner for Narcotics, a senior officer whose sole responsibility was to attack the problem on all fronts.

The Action Committee Against Narcotics was also being placed on a new footing.

"The government cannot sweep the drug problem under the rug even if it wanted to and neither can the Hong Kong community," he said.

Mr. Topley was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Yuen Long Rehabilitation Centre run by the Hong Kong Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. It was built with government assistance.

Housed in the Yuen Long Estate, the Centre provides hostels and treatment facilities for 24 men and 10 women who will undergo treatment for three months.

Mr. Topley described the centre as an important part of the community programme against narcotics.

"No form of human disability is pretty, whether it is blindness, deafness, the results of cerebral palsy or mental illness or alcoholism. The results of drug addiction are not very nice either.

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"We would much rather the problem did not exist. Like the crime with which it is related, we would all like this problem to go away. It won't. It cannot be swept away either," he said.

The hostel has been opened for people who have a drug problem and have come forward to say they want to beat it.

"These people are alive and they need help. They need to be helped somewhere and they cannot be effectively helped to re-enter society if they are hidden away in a remote place," he said.

Mr. Topley said DPAS are to be congratulated in their initiative and concern in this field. He said it was a demonstration of public support for the fight against drugs, support which was vital if success was to be achieved.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Topley's speech are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

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MA TAU KOK HILL TO BE LEVELLED FOR ROAD INTERCHANGE

A small hill in the Ma Tau Kok area will be removed shortly to make way for a road interchange.

The hill is bounded by Kowloon City Road, Sheung Heung Road and To Kwa Wan Road. Work is expected to begin in January next year and will take about six months to complete.

On completion it will produce a level area of about 300,000 square feet for the construction of the road interchange.

This will be the first part of the road project to provide a fast vehicular route linking the existing Hung Hom Interchange with the Airport Tunnel Road now under construction.

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SCHOOL SPEECH DAY

Note to Editors: The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C. Bray, today officiated the Speech Day ceremony of the St. Stephen's Boys' College at Stanley. Copies of Mr. Bray's address are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Friday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien - old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Scarce	1.50
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	No Sale
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.3	2.3	3.3
Big-Eyes	Good	2.8	0.5	1.7
Squid	Limited	5.6	2.0	4.0
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.0	1.0	1.3
Lizard Fishes	Limited	2.3	0.9	1.7
Croakers	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.3
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	2.45	1.5	2.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.5	1.3	1.8
Breams	Limited	5.3	3.0	3.8
Yellow Belly	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.5
Mackerels	Good	3.0	2.1	2.4
Red Goat Fish	Normal	1.8	0.55	1.2
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.3	0.7	0.9
Horse-Head	Normal	6.0	3.0	4.0
Melon Seed	Normal	2.5	1.5	2.0
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.5	7.0	7.5
Garoupas	Limited	6.5	5.5	6.0
Yellow Croaker	Limited	4.8	1.5	4.3

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.20	0.80	1.60
White cabbage	Normal	0.50	0.15	0.35
Chinese lettuce	Normal	0.50	0.20	0.35
Chinese kale	Normal	1.00	0.25	0.55
Spring onion	Normal	1.40	0.40	1.00
Spinach	Normal	1.40	0.50	1.00
Water cress	Normal	1.10	0.25	0.70
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.50	0.20	0.35
Tomato	Scarce	2.20	1.40	1.60

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/picul)</u>
		<u>Average</u>
Pork	Good	285

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Release time: 8.00 p.m.



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

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SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT
THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT ON
FRIDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 1973

When I spoke to you last year, we were already planning our measures to fight violent crime. This fight continues. I know that one result is to place an added burden on your shoulders - not only in prison accommodation, but in the type of offender being sent to prison.

The trend is for offenders to be younger, more opposed to authority and more prone to use violence. You have done well in coping with this change. From the incidents which have occurred you will have learnt lessons.

The disturbances in April demonstrated the need to modernise facilities there, and to review the organisation and management of the department. Many changes have been made or are in hand.

Senior management is being strengthened to take care of various specialised aspects of prison work such as prison industries, vocational training, nursing and after-care. An inspectorate will shortly be set up to visit all prison institutions regularly, examining each in depth and reporting on its efficiency and functioning. A special unit is being planned to co-ordinate intelligence, and other work in the department, against triads, narcotics and corruption.

Additional posts are being created at the middle management level to ensure that specific tasks, particularly dealing with security, receive closer attention. Coupled with this is the progressive and continuing introduction of new security measures at Stanley Prison itself.

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The success of the first detention centre has led to a second being built this year, and has encouraged us to believe we should make such centres a permanent feature of our fight against crime. Many of the detainees' parents have praised the achievements of the centres in handling their sons. This proves the value of your efforts.

However, all these measures depend upon our having sufficient dedicated and well-trained officers such as yourselves to see them implemented. Your work requires a high degree of discipline and initiative. The community appreciates this and respects the contribution you make to its safety.

I congratulate you on your appearance and bearing and wish you every success in the year ahead.

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