



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**CHIEF SECRETARY LEAVES FOR AUSTRALIA**

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG LATER TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR AUSTRALIA.

SIR JACK HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO SPEAK AT A CONFERENCE ON THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, CANBERRA, ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS VISIT TO CALL ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BOTH IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY.

SIR JACK WILL BE AWAY FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS AND DURING THIS PERIOD THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL ACT AS CHIEF SECRETARY AND MR. HENRY CHING WILL ACT AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

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**PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF BUILDING (DEMOLITION WORKS) REGULATIONS TO BE INCREASED AS FROM TODAY**

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THE BUILDING (DEMOLITION WORKS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1979, WHICH AIM TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE BUILDING (DEMOLITION WORKS) REGULATIONS, COME INTO EFFECT TODAY (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, THE FINE FOR AN AUTHORISED PERSON FAILING TO ENSURE THAT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, GAS, WATER AND OTHER SERVICES ARE DISCONNECTED BEFORE DEMOLITION WORK COMMENCES, IS INCREASED FROM \$2,000 TO \$25,000.

THE OTHER AMENDMENTS CONCERN REGISTERED CONTRACTORS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SAFETY OF DEMOLITION WORKERS IN RESPECT OF GAS EXPLOSIONS AND WATER FLOODING, THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SHORING, AND COMPETENT AND EXPERIENCED SUPERVISION OF DEMOLITION WORKS.

THE PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING THESE REGULATIONS IS \$100,000 AND TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT INSTEAD OF \$2,000 AND SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

FOR FAILING TO ERECT SCREENS AND FANS TO CATCH DEBRIS, AND FOR FAILING TO TAKE OTHER PRECAUTIONS BEFORE COMMENCING DEMOLITION, THE FINE IS INCREASED FROM \$2,000 TO \$25,000.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THE AMENDMENTS FORMED PART OF AN EXERCISE TO OVERHAUL AND UP-DATE THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WHICH WAS ENACTED IN 1955.

DESPITE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE IN 1972, WHICH INCREASED THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES FOR A FEW OFFENCES, THE PENALTIES FOR THE REMAINING OFFENCES HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED UNTIL EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAIN ORDINANCE WERE INCREASED.

THE PRESENT AMENDMENTS CONCERN PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS.

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WORK TO START SOON ON NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE AND RAILS  
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WORK WILL BEGIN SHORTLY ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN APPROACHES TO THE NEW BEACON HILL TUNNEL.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK WERE INVITED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE WORK WOULD INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE AND THE LAYING OF ABOUT 2,800 METRES OF CONTINUOUS WELDED RAILWAY TRACK.

IT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE CONNECTION OF THE NEW TRACK WITH THE EXISTING LINE SO THAT RAIL TRAFFIC COULD BE DIRECTED THROUGH THE NEW TUNNEL.

+ON COMPLETION, THE SECTION OF THE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN THE HUNG HOM TERMINUS AND THE SHA TIN STATION CAN BE COMMISSIONED TO FULL DOUBLE-TRACK OPERATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE TRACK STANDARD AND ALIGNMENT ARE DESIGNED TO CATER FOR TRAIN SPEEDS OF UP TO 120 KPH WHEN THE LINE IS ELECTRIFIED,+ HE SAID.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND SHOULD BE FINISHED BY EARLY 1981.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE RAILWAY DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE PWD WHICH WILL SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION.

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APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF RICE WHOLESALERS  
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TRADERS WHO WISH TO BE RICE WHOLESALERS WILL HAVE TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE RESERVED COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, AND THE RESERVED COMMODITIES (CONTROL OF SALES BY WHOLESALE) REGULATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE LIKELY TO COME INTO OPERATION TOWARDS THE END OF 1979.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF RICE WHOLESALERS CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE RESERVED COMMODITIES SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON THE 14TH FLOOR IN OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

TRADERS WHO WISH TO BE REGISTERED AS RICE WHOLESALERS MUST MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA. THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE:

\* THREE YEARS' WHOLESALE EXPERIENCE-

\* A CAPITAL OR PAID-UP CAPITAL OR A NET WORTH OF NOT LESS THAN \$1 MILLION-

- \* A BUSINESS TURNOVER OF NOT LESS THAN \$2 MILLION IN 1978/79-
- \* BANK CREDIT FACILITIES OF NOT LESS THAN \$1 MILLION FOR TRADING IN RICE ONLY AND
- \* PREMISES CAPABLE OF STORING NOT LESS THAN 10 METRIC TONS OF RICE.

+APPLICANTS MUST ALSO UNDERTAKE TO COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF RICE WHOLESALERS TO BE REGISTERED,+ HE ADDED.

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NON-MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN FIRST QUARTER 1979  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST QUARTER 1979 EMPLOYMENT SURVEYS COVERING THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS- AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES.

RELEASED AT THE SAME TIME WERE THE REVISED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR THESE TRADES AND SERVICES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 1978.

IN MARCH 1979, 280,314 PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, A DECREASE OF 6,723 OR 2.3 PER CENT OVER DECEMBER 1978.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 269,551 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN MARCH 1978, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 10,763 OR FOUR PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS TOTALLED 104,853 PEOPLE, BEING 0.6 PER CENT BELOW THE DECEMBER 1978 FIGURE AND FOUR PER CENT ABOVE MARCH 1978.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS SHOWN THAT THERE WERE 18,776 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES. THIS REPRESENTS A DECREASE OF ONLY 0.5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1978, BUT AN INCREASE OF 5.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1978.

DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN MARCH 1979, DECEMBER 1978 AND MARCH 1978 ARE:

NATURE OF BUSINESS	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1978*	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1979	CHANGE OF MARCH 1979 OVER DEC. 1978	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WHOLESALE TRADE	39,434	42,831	42,131	- 700	- 1.6
RETAIL TRADE	133,753	145,511	140,607	-4,904	- 3.4
IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS	96,364	98,695	97,576	-1,119	- 1.1
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	100,834	105,470	104,853	- 617	- 0.6
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	17,737	18,878	18,776	- 102	- 0.5
TOTAL	388,122	411,385	403,943	-7,442	- 1.8

ANOTHER EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REVEALED THAT IN FEBRUARY 1979 THERE WERE 100,389 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES.

OF THESE, 34,614 WERE ENGAGED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS, 15,642 IN REAL ESTATE COMPANIES AND 13,443 IN FINANCING INSTITUTIONS OTHER THAN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 98,225 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN NOVEMBER 1978, THE FEBRUARY FIGURE REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 2,164 OR 2.2 PER CENT.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 184,458 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER IN 1978, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 15,900 OR 19 PER CENT.

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## THE MAIN INCREASES FROM NOVEMBER 1978 TO FEBRUARY 1979 ARE:

TRADE/ SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEB. 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN NOV. 1978*	PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEB. 1979	CHANGE OF FEB. 1979 OVER NOV. 1978	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
MONETARY INSTITUTIONS (INCLUDING BANKS)	30,572	33,771	34,614	+ 843	+ 2.5
REAL ESTATE COMPANIES AND AGENCIES	13,323	15,234	15,642	+ 408	+ 2.7
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	4,505	6,149	6,480	+ 331	+ 5.4
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	9,847	13,163	13,443	+ 280	+ 2.1

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR VARIOUS TRADE GROUPS AND SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

\* REVISED FIGURES. THE RECORDS OF BUSINESS REGISTRATION KEPT IN THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE ARE USED AS THE BASIC FRAME OF THE EMPLOYMENT SURVEYS. A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES FOR UPDATING THESE RECORDS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1978 RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SUCH RECORDS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 1978 SURVEYS ALL THE RECORDS RECEIVED IN THAT QUARTER AND, AS A RESULT, THE FOURTH QUARTER 1978 EMPLOYMENT FIGURES WERE SLIGHTLY UNDER-ESTIMATED. IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1979 SURVEYS, INFORMATION ON THE FOURTH QUARTER 1978 EMPLOYMENT WAS COLLECTED FROM THE RELEVANT ESTABLISHMENTS. THE REVISED FIGURES QUOTED ABOVE ARE FINAL.

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PLEA ON MACHINE GUARDING

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO COMPLY WITH THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH THREE FACTORIES WERE EACH FINED \$5,000 AT TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE GUARDS FOR POWER PRESSES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR. CHAN SIU-LAP, SAID THE REGULATIONS WERE AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE WORKING AT AND OPERATING MACHINES OR PLANTS.

+BOTH THE PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORKING OF MACHINERY. THOSE SEEKING ADVICE OR IDEAS ABOUT MACHINE GUARDING ARE WELCOME TO VISIT OUR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EXHIBITION AT THE NORTH CONCOURSE OF KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS, + HE ADDED.

THE 11-DAY EXHIBITION OPENS FROM 10.30 A.M. TO 7.30 P.M. DAILY UNTIL AUGUST 6.

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OCCUPANTS MOVING OUT AT SAI LAU KOK

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MORE THAN 230 FLATS AT THE SEVEN SAI LAU KOK MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WHICH ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ARE NOW FULLY OR PARTIALLY VACATED AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT MOST OF THE REMAINDER WILL BE VACATED BY NEXT TUESDAY (JULY 31) WHEN THE CROWN LAND NOTICE EXPIRES.

HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A BRIEF EXTENSION OF STAY FOR ANY OCCUPANTS WHO CAN PROVE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MOVE OUT FOR REASONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.

CROWN LAND NOTICES WERE POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS ON JULY 16 GIVING THE OCCUPANTS UNTIL JULY 31 TO MOVE OUT. THE BUILDINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PART OF THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND TAIL TRACKS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED A WIDE RANGE OF COMPENSATION TO PROPERTY OWNERS. IN ADDITION, A RANGE OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO 230 OWNER-OCCUPIERS OF DOMESTIC FLATS AND ALL GENUINE TENANTS HAVE BEEN OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING AND DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCES.

COMPENSATION TERMS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO SHOP OR WORKSHOP OWNERS AND OPERATORS.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS MANY FAMILIES HAD MOVED OUT.

+MORE THAN 35 OF THE 51 WORKSHOP OPERATORS WHO HAD BEEN OFFERED COMPENSATION HAVE NOW COLLECTED THEIR ADVANCED COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND WILL BE MOVING OUT OVER THE THE WEEKEND OR EARLY NEXT WEEK, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE MAJORITY OF THOSE INVOLVED HAVE BEEN MOST CO-OPERATIVE AND HELPFUL ALTHOUGH THERE IS A SMALL GROUP REMAINING WHO HAVE REFUSED TO ALLOW EITHER THE MASS TRANSIT OFFICE OR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THEIR COMPENSATION AND RE-HOUSING.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S TERMS AND ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM TIME AND AGAIN. ANOTHER MEETING WAS HELD THIS WEEKEND AND IT WAS AGAIN IMPRESSED UPON THE GROUP THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPENSATION AND RE-HOUSING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE AREA MUST BE CLEARED VERY SOON TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE MTR CONTRACTOR.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF ABOUT 25 OWNER-OCCUPIERS WHICH HAD NOT YET ACCEPTED THE OFFERS MADE TO THEM BY THE MASS TRANSIT OFFICE.

+THESE OWNERS HAVE ALSO BEEN URGED TO MAKE THEIR ARRANGEMENTS QUICKLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE OWNERS ARE ALSO AWARE THAT IF THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S VALUATION OF THEIR PREMISES THEY CAN TAKE THEIR CASE TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL ASSESSMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

#### FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 14 DAYS NEXT (AUGUST) MONTH.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF PRACTICE.

THE PRACTISING TIMES ARE :

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
AUGUST 1 (WEDNESDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 2 (THURSDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 3 (FRIDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 8 (WEDNESDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 9 (THURSDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 10 (FRIDAY)	7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
AUGUST 14 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
AUGUST 15 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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AUGUST 16 (THURSDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 8 P.M.
AUGUST 21 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 1.30 P.M.
AUGUST 22 (WEDNESDAY)	11 A.M. - 4 P.M.
AUGUST 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
AUGUST 24 (FRIDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
AUGUST 31 (FRIDAY)	9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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#### TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY THE EXISTING 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON CHOI HUNG ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED SOUTHWARD TO A POINT ABOUT 95 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTIONS WITH TSEUK LUK STREET AND TAI SHING STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF TAI SHING STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHOI HUNG ROAD TO THE WEST OF THE TAI SHING STREET AND TAI TUNG STREET JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY.

UNDER THESE RESTRICTIONS, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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