



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, December 20, 1972

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STUDY ON OIL REFINERY ON LAMMA ISLAND

British Consultants Appointed

The Government has appointed consultants to report on the environmental aspects of the enquiries made by the Shell Company for a proposed refinery on Lamma Island.

Announcing this today, a Government spokesman said the consultants have been asked to report, before May 1, on all aspects of pollution and environmental damage which might result from the operation of a refinery.

They would also have to advise the Government on any special requirements or legislation which might be necessary if the company's application were to be approved, he added.

The British firm, Messrs Cremer and Warner, has been appointed and will work in conjunction with Parsons Brown and Partners.

Their appointment, the spokesman said, arose from the Government's decision last September not to start processing Shell's enquiries unless satisfied by independent consultants that three important environmental aspects of life could be safeguarded.

The Government must be convinced that there would be no material damage to or pollution of:

- * marine life and the fishing industry;
- * conditions of living for residents in Hongkong, including those on Lamma Island; and
- * recreational facilities in south Hong Kong and the rest of Lamma Island.

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The spokesman said that these consultants had been picked because of their experience in this kind of work.

The consultants' representatives have been specially interviewed in London by Government officers, together with those of five other firms; all of them, recommended by the British Consultants Bureau, specialised in this field.

"Cremer and Warner and Parsons Brown and Partners," the spokesman said, "are two British firms which have considerable experience of environmental studies on oil refineries. They have made extensive surveys both for oil companies and for local authorities in many different parts of the world."

It is understood that representatives of the firms will visit Hong Kong to begin field studies early in the New Year.

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT TO BEAUTIFY CENTRAL RECLAMATION

Work To Start Next Year

The Government will spend more than \$2.4 million to beautify the waterfront reclamation in Central with a promenade between Blake Pier and the Jubilee Street Vehicular Pier on lines similar to Statue Square.

The project, forming part of the overall scheme for the development of open spaces in Central, covers an area of 1.15 acres, providing covered promenades, sitting space, covered walk-ways and pavilions.

Construction is expected to begin next year, taking about a year to complete.

The main attraction of the project will be three butterfly water jet fountains with flood lights, lily ponds and ornamental pools.

In addition, there will be rock gardens, raised flower beds, and adequate planting and turfing, to create a pleasant environment on the reclamation.

Twelve pavilions will be erected at different locations to provide resting areas.

A covered walk-way will run from Blake Pier to the Vehicular Pier, ensuring that pedestrians can go from one place to another during rainy weather.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT CAREERS EXHIBITION

Students, Parents And Teachers Urged To Attend

The Youth Employment Advisory Service of the Labour Department will stage Hong Kong's first government-sponsored careers exhibition at the City Hall Exhibition Hall from December 29 to 31.

The head of the service, Mr. S.Y. Mak, said today that several thousand school leavers and young workers were expected to attend the exhibition, which was aimed primarily at Form Five pupils who were now making up their minds about a career.

He said the exhibition was intended as a major extension of the department's school careers lecture service, which now reached thousands of students a year and was still growing.

About 20 exhibitors will take part, presenting a range of careers varying from apprenticeships and nursing to banking and social work.

The stands would be divided into five groups, under general headings such as office work, creative work, or practical and technical work.

Within each group, dozens of different job opportunities would be shown.

Each stand would show the sort of work available in a certain field, the qualifications needed, the training provided, the opportunities for advancement, and information on salaries, working conditions and fringe benefits.

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"The exhibition will be the most comprehensive of its kind ever staged in Hong Kong, and will give young people more information about the choices open to them in deciding their futures than has ever been available in one place in the past," Mr. Mak said.

"I'm glad to say that in arranging the exhibition we've had the wholehearted co-operation of some of Hong Kong's biggest and most influential firms."

The General Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Mr. M.G.R. Sandberg, will officially open the exhibition at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, December 29.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on December 29, from 9.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on December 30 and from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the final day, December 31.

"Every student, parent and teacher in Hong Kong should see the exhibition," Mr. Mak said. "It could be vital in helping young people decide on a career which will provide them with a happy and secure future."

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ACCIDENTS ON BUILDING SITES

Better Safety Standards Needed

Managements in the building industry are urged to maintain "higher safety standards" on building sites in an effort to cut down on the number of injuries caused by falls.

Six workers were killed and 243 injured on building sites last month, according to reports received by the Labour Department.

Of this number, 49 were the result of "falls of persons", of which three were fatal and occurred at the same time.

Mr. A.H. Carter, the Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, said: "Falls of persons are a continuing problem in this industry. Since April this year over 454 persons have suffered injuries and 14 have been killed as a result of falling from height, into openings in floors or excavations in the ground."

He said: "Many of these accidents are directly attributable to the poor standards of housekeeping prevailing on far too many building sites. These poor standards are not only responsible for accidents but also hinder progress of orderly construction work, thereby increasing the total cost of the work being done."

He stressed: "If management, through continual supervision of the work force, ensured that higher safety standards were maintained there would be a reduction in the number of injuries caused by falls of persons."

/Mr. Carter said;

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Mr. Carter said: "Between 90 and 95 per cent of all accidents are the result of an unsafe act or failure to act safely by the individual. Therefore, the problem is one of people and how to motivate them to think and act in a safe manner. This can only be achieved by education and training at all levels from management to employees."

In this connection, he pointed out that the Industrial Safety Training Centre offers safety training courses free of charge on a variety of subjects.

"I am appalled at the complete apathy and lack of interest shown by the building and civil engineering construction industry whose activities in two years 1970-71 led to 100 workers being killed and over 6,650 injured," he emphasised.

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SIX CLINICS OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS

Six Government out-patient clinics will remain open over the Christmas holiday period to serve residents throughout Hong Kong.

They are the Violet Peel Polyclinic, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Clinics in Shau Kei Wan, Kwun Tong and Yau Ma Tei, the Robert Black Health Centre and the Lady Trench Polyclinic in Tsuen Wan.

They will remain open on December 24, 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All other Government out-patient and evening clinics will be closed during the Christmas holidays.

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Five Disabled To Receive Bronze Award At X'mas Party

Five young disabled trainees from the Social Welfare Department's Aberdeen Rehabilitation Centre are to receive bronze awards in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at a Christmas party in the Centre tomorrow.

The awards will be presented by Mr. T.P. Khoo, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and head of the Rehabilitation Division.

The recipients include a trainee suffering from post-polio paralysis, an epilepsy and spastic case, a trainee with a weakness in the left limb as a result of polio, a trainee with a hunch-back following recovery from tuberculosis in the spine, and a trainee with a mild degree of mental retardation.

They are receiving the bronze award in recognition of efforts they have made to serve in first aid, life saving and home nursing. They have undertaken training to prepare them for constructive physical activity.

In addition, they have participated in expeditions involving map reading, and their interests have included wheelchair dancing, basketball, archery and fencing.

They have also completed courses leading to an improved "design for living," such as decorating one's personal environment, flower arrangements, and the efficient and responsible handling of money.

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The Centre nominated 34 trainees to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in May last year. Many of the original participants have left the Centre, and only seven remain. Of these, the five winners have fulfilled all the requirements for the bronze award.

The presentation will highlight a Christmas party for 300 residents at the Centre, an annual event.

An entertainment programme will include "variety" numbers presented by the residents themselves.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the Christmas party and presentation ceremony covered. The events begin at 7.30 p.m. The ARC is located in the Welfare Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME

November Figures Show Continuing Expansion

The total number of active cases in the Public Assistance Scheme reached 17,529 at the end of November.

New applications received during the month totalled 1,220, including 320 referrals from voluntary agencies.

Cases reactivated during the month totalled 112, and at the same time, 679 cases were closed.

Cash payments during November totalled \$2.6 million, bringing to \$31.5 million the grand total spent so far since the expanded scheme was implemented on April 1, 1971.

Commenting on these figures, Mr. Tsau Tsor-yan, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and head of the Public Assistance Division, says it is gratifying to note that many residents in need have now begun to realise that the scheme exists for them.

This conclusion can be drawn from the fact that statistics on the classification of cases show that about 50 per cent are elderly people. The next largest group, representing nearly 18 per cent, are residents suffering from ill health.

Nearly 16 per cent of recipients are residents whose incomes are insufficient. The fourth largest group, nearly 10 per cent, are widows with dependent children.

Other categories of recipients include the blind, the deaf, the drug addict, the mentally ill, the physically disabled, and the unemployed.

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BALLOT FOR STALLS AT CASTLE PEAK

People who are eligible but have not yet come forward to ballot for a stall in the modular market at the Castle Peak Resettlement Estate have been asked to do so immediately.

A spokesman for the District Office, Yuen Long said today that the restricted tender for the fish, poultry, meat and cooked-food stalls took place on December 18 this year.

"Except for 12 stalls, all stalls were balloted for and subsequently allocated. Twelve people who are eligible did not take part in the ballot," the spokesman said.

"They," he went on, "should go to the Castle Peak Resettlement Estate office during office hours before December 30 this year.

"If they fail to come forward by this deadline and if those already allocated units do not sign their tenancy agreement by December 30 this year, it will be assumed that they have given up their eligibility."

The spokesman said any queries concerning the matter should be directed to the Resettlement Officer, Castle Peak Resettlement Estate (telephone: 12-817151) or the Assistant District Officer, Castle Peak (telephone: 12-760261, Extension 79).

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HIGHER PRICES FOR FOOD LAST MONTH

Three-Point Rise In Consumer Price Index

The General Consumer Price Index for November 1972 was 143, three points higher than that for the previous month. "This was due mainly to a rise of six points in the index for food," a spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department said.

Increases of two points each were recorded in the index for alcoholic drink and tobacco and the index for clothing and footwear.

Increases of one point each were recorded in the indexes for durable goods, miscellaneous goods and services.

"Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant," the spokesman added.

Compared with the previous month, there were increases in the average retail prices of fresh vegetables, fresh water fish, salt water fish, eggs, rice, bread and cakes, and meals bought away from home.

On the other hand, the average retail prices of poultry and other fish dropped.

The Modified Consumer Price Index for November 1972 was 147, three points higher than that for the previous month, and fourteen points higher than that for the corresponding month in 1971.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO U.S.A.

Phase I Of Swing Schemes Starts Today

The Director of Commerce and Industry today issued a notice to exporters on the export of restrained textiles to the United States.

The notice concerns the operation of Phase I of the Swing Schemes for the export of cotton, man-made fibre (m.m.f.) and wool textiles to the U.S.A. for the textile year 1972-73.

Phase I of the Swing Schemes began today and will end on February 15 next year.

During Phase I of the Swing Schemes, quota holders can apply to swing increase their quota holdings in accordance with the percentage limitations set out in the said Notice to Exporters.

Quota holders are required to supply their own yardage for swing; however m.m.f. apparel quota holders are eligible to apply for departmental "free yardage" for swing up to 5% of their holdings in a category in which a swing increase is to be made.

The Commerce and Industry Department expects to be able to notify a limited quantity of free yardage in cotton, m.m.f. and wool for application by all comers in the second half of next February.

Trade associations and companies on the department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters, Series 2 (U.S.A.) will receive copies of the above notice shortly.

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However, people who wish to seek advance notice of its contents are invited to obtain copies from the department's Textiles Licensing Office on 2nd floor, Fire Brigade Building, Hong Kong or contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:- Mr. Y.K. Tong - Industry Assistant (Tel. No. 5-239625); Mr. L. Chung - Industry Assistant (Tel. No. 5-448686); and Mrs. L.M. Yum - Licensing Officer (Tel. No. 5-223219).

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LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

With the help of the Labour Department, an amicable settlement has been reached in a dispute between the Nam Feng Enamel Factory (H.K.) Ltd. and some 100 workers over the payment of wages in lieu of notice.

Under the agreement, a total sum of \$80,000 will be paid to the workers as wages in lieu of notice and annual bonus.

The Nam Feng Enamel Factory (H.K.) Ltd. ceased operations on December 5 this year.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.