



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, February 12, 1973

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NEW SCHEME TO TEACH DRIVING

Simulator To Be Introduced On Experimental Basis

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The Government has agreed in principle to try out a "link trainer system" for training and testing learner drivers.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Transport Department said that tenders would soon be called for in the Government Gazette for the installation of the necessary equipment.

He said that under the trial system, the learner driver would learn the basic fundamentals of driving inside a simulated car with a screen in front showing road conditions.

"The driver will be trained in the use of various controls, recognition of traffic signs, and normal reactions to different traffic situations," he said. "Any mistakes made will be automatically detected."

The intermediate tests of the learner driver would be undertaken on the machine after a certain period of training.

After passing the test, the driver would still have to take actual driving lessons on the roads before undergoing a final road test.

The spokesman said that this "link trainer system" would save a lot of time and money for the learner driver by greatly reducing the amount of time required to learn to drive up to intermediate standard.

"It will also reduce congestion on the roads by keeping the large number of learner drivers away from them", he added.

But he stressed that the final decision on whether this system would eventually become part of the normal driving tuition would depend on the results of the trial.

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TRAINING COURSE FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFICERS

First Of Its Kind In Hong Kong

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The Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department today launched its first six-week training course for Industrial Safety Officers.

The course - the first of its kind to be held in Hong Kong - covers all aspects of accident prevention and safety management.

According to Mr. A.H. Carter, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, the course is the most ambitious one ever organised by the Department.

Of the 16 participants, 12 are from private companies while the remaining four are from Government departments.

Mr. Carter stressed that Safety Officers could play an important role in helping to prevent and reduce industrial accidents.

He outlined the general duties of a safety officer as follows:

- (a) to advise management on industrial safety and accident prevention;
- (b) to detect and remove unsafe working conditions and practices;
- (c) to draw up safety training programmes in conjunction with the Labour Department and
- (d) to ensure that sufficiently trained first aid, rescue and fire-fighting teams were always available.

/In addition .....

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In addition to the training course for Industrial Safety Officers, the Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre also runs other basic and advanced training courses.

Those who wish to have further details should make enquiries to officers of the Centre at Telephone Nos. 3-661438 and 3-664270 during office hours.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a speech given by Mr. Chan Siu-tung, Senior Labour Officer, at the opening of the Industrial Safety Training Course will be issued separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes this evening.

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#### WATER INTERRUPTION

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Water supply to a number of premises in Sai Kung Hui, including Sai Kung Police Station, will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Wednesday (February 14) to 6 a.m. the next morning.

The temporary stoppage is to allow the Waterworks Office to install a flow meter at Hiram's Highway near Sai Kung Town.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME

January Figures Show Continuing Expansion

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The total number of active cases in the public assistance scheme reached 18,105 at the end of January.

New applications received during the month totalled 902, and cases reactivated numbered 136. At the same time, 669 cases were closed.

Cash payments during January totalled \$2.78 million, bringing to \$37.08 million, the grand total spent so far since the expanded scheme was implemented on April 1, 1971.

In addition to public assistance, Mr. Tsau Tsor-yan, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and head of the Public Assistance Division, said today that during January, divisional officers had responded to 13 emergencies caused by fires and closure orders.

As a result, 304 families had registered for emergency aid, consisting of 1,341 persons. They received hot food, blankets, cooking utensils, dry rations, and so on.

Mr. Tsau expected that during February, the 18th field unit of the Public Assistance Division would be set up in the Tung Tau Resettlement Estate to serve residents in the area.

It is proposed, according to present plans, that there will eventually be 20 field units attached to the Public Assistance Division to handle the growing caseload.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSUEN WAN

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Certain traffic arrangements will come into effect in Tsuen Wan as from 10 a.m. on Wednesday (February 14) to improve traffic circulation in the area.

The changes are as follows:

- \* Chung On Street between Castle Peak Road and Sha Tsui Road will be re-routed one-way southwards towards Sha Tsui Road.
- \* Chuen Lung Street, between Sha Tsui Road and the first road junction to the north, and between Hoi Pa Street and Tsuen Wan Market Street, will be opened for two-way traffic. Chuen Lung Street north of Tsuen Wan Market Street will be re-routed one-way northwards towards Shui Wo Street.
- \* Hoi Pa Street between Chung On Street and Chuen Lung Street will be re-routed one-way westwards towards Chuen Lung Street.
- \* Shui Wo Street between Chuen Lung Street and Chung On Street will be re-routed one-way eastwards towards Chung On Street.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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ARRIVAL OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

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Note to Editors: The United Nations Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, will be passing through Hong Kong tomorrow (Tuesday) en route to Japan. He will arrive by air from Bangkok at 11.30 a.m. and depart for Tokyo at 15.20.

Dr. Waldheim will not give a Press conference during his short stop-over but arrangements have been made for Press cameramen to photograph his arrival and departure at Kai Tak.

Press photographers should meet outside the VIP room in the Terminal Building not later than twenty minutes before arrival and departure time. A GIS officer will be present to assist.

Because of aircraft arrival times it is not possible for one photographer to cover the arrival of both Dr. Waldheim and Dr. Kissinger.

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## MOST LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLED AMICABLY

With Help From Labour Department

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The Labour Department's Labour Relations Service last year resolved well over 70 per cent of the 4,500 disputes it handled, the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Ian Price, said today.

And by timely advice and the use of their good offices, its representatives were able to prevent many more disputes from arising in the first place, he added.

Mr. Price was speaking at the weekly meeting of the New Territories Rotary Club.

He stressed that officers of the service had achieved their successes of the past year not by arbitrating in disputes between employers and employees, but by conciliation - by helping management and workers to bridge the gap between their positions, and thus arrive at a friendly settlement.

Mr. Price said that despite the growth and success of the Labour Relations Service, many people still did not seem to clearly understand its role in conciliation.

Employers and workers often expected the conciliator to support them in whatever stand they took. The public and the press also often seemed to think that the conciliator had the power of an arbitrator - that is the power to impose a ruling on the parties to the dispute.

/"The conciliator .....

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"The conciliator does not himself settle the dispute," Mr. Price explained. "He merely attempts to advise and persuade an employer and his workers to settle what is THEIR dispute.

"And a conciliator does not possess legal powers. He is only armed with his personality, prestige, personal skill, practical experience, perseverance and patience."

Mr. Price said that with the backing of the Labour Tribunal which will start work next month, he expected the number of management-worker disputes to be settled by conciliation would become even higher.

The presence of the Tribunal, he added, would strengthen the hands of the department's conciliation officers, and complement their work.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.