



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, January 29, 1974

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commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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INTENSIFIED EFFORT TO ERADICATE TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN PRISONS

Prisons Department And Police Plan Further Action

New measures are being worked out to stamp out triad activities within Hong Kong's penal institutions, the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Tom Garner, revealed today.

"Measures have been taken and further action is being planned so that in the foreseeable future triad activity within penal institutions will cease to be the problem it has been for the past 26 years," he told a luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club.

In this matter, his department was working in close liaison with the Triad Society Bureau of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

One of the greatest problems facing a prison officer today, Mr. Garner said, was the task of looking after large numbers of prisoners, many with violent tendencies and almost all with triad background. "Currently some 75 per cent of all admissions are admitting to having some sort of affiliation with gang or triad societies."

Large numbers of prisoners grouped together, he went on, presented problems of supervision which could endanger programmes designed with the aim of reforming and which allowed for the proper degree of deterrence.

He disclosed that a comprehensive review of prison programmes was now underway within the department, not only to take into account the rise in crime and the change in the type of offender, but also to plan for easing the overcrowding and improving supervision over inmates.

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Pointing to a need for new methods of handling prisoners and improving security, the Commissioner said a number of measures had already been taken.

These included the classification of prisoners into four categories for better security.

Under the new system, Category A prisoners are those whose escape would be highly dangerous to the public; those in Category B are those for whom the very highest conditions of security are not necessary but for whom escape must be made very difficult; Category C is for those whom, while it is considered they do not possess the will to make a determined escape, nevertheless some form of security should be present; and Category D is for those whom it is considered can be reasonably trusted to serve their sentence in conditions of minimum security.

Referring to narcotic drugs and trafficking in prisons, Mr. Garner said that over the past 18 months a great deal of effort had been given to the problem and this had not been without reward.

Although there has been an improvement in the situation, he said no effort would be spared and action would continue until the problem ceased to exist.

Mr. Garner also described the work of other types of institutions the department has in addition to prisons. These consist of the detention and training centres for young offenders and treatment centres for drug addicts.

On top of these, there is another programme for which the Prisons Department is responsible -- the programme of after-care which is compulsory for those who are discharged from detention, training and treatment centres.

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"At the present, we have some 2,320 ex-inmates from such institutions living and working within the community being followed up for varying periods by staff of the department working in the field of after-care," Mr. Garner said.

"The work put in by these officers goes a long way towards cutting down on the rate of recidivism."

Summing up, Mr. Garner said: "Security particularly at Stanley Prison will continue to improve, both in a physical sense and in supervision. However, it takes time to improve the physical aspects of a prison, sometimes a long time, but improvements in supervision have come about fairly rapidly."

To this end, the Commissioner pointed out that some 500 additional men and women had been recruited into the service during the past year.

On the expansion of the department, Mr. Garner said two new institutions were being built at Pak Oi, one a maximum security training centre for 400 and the other a minimum security prison for 600.

Preliminary work for the New Kowloon Reception Centre to hold 960 is in hand and an additional training centre for 260 is shortly due to be constructed at Lai Chi Kok.

"These major improvements now being carried out and others being considered will ensure that all of our present day difficulties will be resolved including overcrowding in some institutions which has been a constant problem over the past 27 years," the Commissioner said.

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

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HEALTH REPORT FOR DECEMBER

Incidence Of Measles Continues To Increase

Health returns for December last year issued today by the Medical and Health Department show that eight children died from the disease -- the highest number of deaths by measles recorded for any single month since August 1969.

The deaths brought the total of fatalities from measles in 1973 to 21, compared with nine in 1972. Notifications totalled 1,034 compared with 783. The incidence of measles in December alone totalled 191, compared with 129 in November.

Commenting on these figures, a spokesman said they emphasised the need for parents of susceptible children between six months and five years to have them immunised.

"Free vaccine is available throughout the year at all maternal and child health centres," he stressed.

All the 93 other deaths recorded during December were caused by tuberculosis.

There were 23 notifications of bacillary dysentery, 33 of chickenpox, and one of diphtheria.

Sixteen cases of typhoid were reported, and one of paratyphoid. There were no local cases of malaria, but three recurrent imported cases were notified.

The incidence of other communicable diseases show no appreciable variation.

During the month, Hong Kong remained free from cholera and other quarantinable diseases.

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SPECIAL INDUCEMENT ALLOWANCE FOR N.T. TEACHERS

Qualified teachers who work in 86 aided primary schools in remote areas of the New Territories are being paid a special inducement allowance of \$130 a month, a spokesman for the Education Department said today.

Some 230 qualified teachers are receiving the allowance which is awarded in recognition of their exceptional working conditions. It is also to encourage qualified teachers to take up posts in the more remote areas.

Many of the teachers in these schools are living in the remote villages or in the vicinity where the schools are situated.

Payment of the inducement allowance will date from December 1, 1973.

The spokesman said that the maximum financial commitment was estimated at \$716,000 a year.

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FOUNDING CEREMONY OF YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

A ceremony to mark the founding of the West Kowloon Youth Guidance Council will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre of the Social Welfare Department.

Officiating at the ceremony, which begins at 4 p.m. will be Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, who will present certificates to the Council's honorary presidents. They are Mr. Chung Wing Hong, Mr. Ho Sau Hong, Mr. Henry H.L. Hu, Mr. Fan Tsi On, Dr. William J.F. Lew and Mr. Yu Kam Ming.

The Council was formed recently and consists of 79 members representing schools, social services agencies, churches and other organisations in the Tai Hang Tung, Tai Hang Sai, Yau Yat Chuen and Shek Kip Mei districts in the west part of Kowloon.

Among the objectives of the Council are to pool together local expertise and resources to provide long-term guidance schemes for youngsters and their parents, to co-ordinate children and youth services in the area and to assist members of the Council in developing children and youth programmes wherever necessary.

It also aims to study and conduct research into children and youth problems in general, making recommendations to the appropriate authorities concerned where it is felt necessary and to actively involve local youths and residents in solving their own problems and those of their community.

The President of the Council is Mr. Wong Shiu Cheuk, an Urban Councillor. Chairman of the Executive Council is Mr. Yuen Shiu Sun, Principal of the Po On Commercial Association School.

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Since its founding the Council has already organised a leadership training course, a guidance scheme for primary school graduates, a guidance project on youth employment and further studies, and a seminar on the Shek Kip Mei Outline Zoning Plan.

For the future, the Council hopes to continue some of these projects as well as start new ones such as providing a study room for students, organising a scout group and a nursing cadet corps.

At tomorrow's ceremony there will be a role-playing performance by volunteers of the Council and participants of its activities to illustrate the work that has already been carried out.

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Note to Editors: You are welcome to send a reporter and/or
photographer to cover the founding ceremony.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW

Further measures to fight crime will be discussed at the Legislative Council tomorrow (Wednesday) during the adjournment debate.

The subject will be brought up by the Hon. Hilton Cheong-Leen after the council completes its official business.

Unofficial members will be asking a total of 13 questions, relating to pyramid selling, acupuncture, regulation of creches and nurseries, supervision of privately operated X-ray establishments, provision of adequate chemist shops with qualified pharmacists, airmail postage rates between Hong Kong and the United States, driving tests, release of urban army camp areas, and the principles governing the sale of land for special industrial projects.

Seven bills will be introduced into the council for the first time. These are: The Independent Commission Against Corruption Bill, the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, the Prevention of Bribery Bill, the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Bill, the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, the Official Languages Bill, and the Prisons (Amendment) Bill.

The annual report of the Director of Civil Aviation for the year 1972/73 will be tabled together with that by the Director of Social Welfare and the Director of Audit's Report and Certificate on the accounts of the Hong Kong government.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Tuesday) 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>
<u>China Rice</u>		
See Mew -- old crop	Good	1.84
-- new crop		
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.74
new crop		1.78
Po Hgai	Good	1.47
Chu Cho	Good	1.37
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.52
A1 Super	Good	1.32
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.82
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.74
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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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	Limited	5.20	4.00	4.20
Big-Eyes	Limited	2.80	0.6	1.70
Squid	Scarce	7.20	3.50	5.00
Hair-Tails	Limited	2.80	1.00	1.80
Lizard Fishes	Limited	3.80	1.40	3.00
Croakers	Limited	2.70	0.70	1.80
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	4.00	3.20	3.80
Melon Coat	Normal	3.20	1.80	2.50
Breans	Limited	6.50	4.50	5.50
Yellow Belly	-	-	-	-
Mackerels	Good	5.00	2.60	2.80
Red Goat Fish	Limited	2.00	0.90	1.50
Fork-Tail	Limited	2.00	1.50	1.80
Horse-Head	Limited	5.20	3.00	4.00
Melon Seed	Limited	3.50	2.00	2.80
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.50	7.00	8.00
Garoupas	Scarce	9.00	6.00	7.50
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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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	Good	1.0	0.2	0.6
White cabbage	Good	0.3	0.1	0.2
Chinese Lettuce	Good	0.4	0.1	0.2
Chinese Kale	Good	0.5	0.1	0.3
Spring onion	Normal	1.4	0.6	1.0
Spinach	Good	0.4	0.1	0.3
Water cress	Good	1.0	0.2	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.5	0.2	0.3
Tomato	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

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

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