DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 6, 1973

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MEASURES TO MEET POSSIBLE OIL SHORTAGE BEING CONSIDERED

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Contingency plans including the possibility of control over oil supplies and distribution are being considered by the government should a world shortage develop as a result of the situation in the Middle East.

There is at the moment, no firm indication of how, or when, Hong Kong might be affected.

Consequently no decision has yet been taken on the form of control or the timing which might be necessary.

A government spokesman said this today when commenting on newspaper reports that major oil companies are considering the introduction of petrol rationing within the next two weeks.

He said that, through the Petrol and Oils Advisory Committee and other contacts, the government maintains constant touch with the situation.

"As far as we know, the oil companies have not announced plans for a general cut back in supplies in the immediate future", he pointed out.

At present, oil supplies to Hong Kong continue normally and there has been no decrease in supply compared with that before the recent war in the Middle East.

Excluding aviation and the bunkering of ships, Hong Kong's daily oil consumption is between 8,000 and 9,000 long tons, and the current stocks represent, depending on the type of product, between 30 and 50 days consumption in general terms. Stocks change daily and it is impossible to be exact.

/The spokesman .....

The spokesman said that if there was a drastic cutback in oil deliveries, Hong Kong, in common with other parts of the world, would be affected in many ways. Cooking, electric supply to households and factories, supplies to aircraft, ships and vehicles, would all be affected to some degree.

"If oil supplies drop and the situation warrants it, some control on local demand and supply will obviously have to be introduced in the interest of the community as a whole," he added.

Commenting on a report that some bus companies had issued instructions to their drivers to save fuel by cutting out the unnecessary idling of engines, the spokesman said that this was obviously a sensible measure. Many people could also help by avoiding unnecessary use of cars and lorries and by preventing wastage caused in various ways.

On the question of preventing profiteering and blackmarketing of petrol, the spokesman said that this possibility was not being overlooked.

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SECOND AND FINAL DIVIDEND TO MING TAK BANK CREDITORS

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Arrangements for the payment of a second and final dividend to creditors of the Ming Tak Bank have now been finalised, Mr. W. Hume, the Official Receiver and Trustee, announced today.

Mr. Hume recalled that in the formal notice to creditors which appeared in the Government Gazette and in various newspapers on September 11, 1973 it was proposed to pay a second and final dividend of not less than 75 per cent to all unsecured creditors.

"Creditors will be pleased to learn", Mr. Hume said "that it will in fact be possible to pay a final dividend of 75 per cent plus interest from February 4, 1965, the date of the Receiving Order, to November 11, 1973 at the rate of 8 per cent per annum on all debts proved and admitted." This payment, together with the first dividend of 25 per cent already paid earlier this year, will mean that creditors will have admitted claims paid in full with interest.

The dates and times of payment will be notified in the Government Gazette on Friday, November 9, 1973, and advertised in the public notices column of several English and Chinese language newspapers on November 7, 8 and 9.

Payment Procedure

Mr. Hume added that each depositor and gift coupon holder should attend at the Official Receiver's Office on the appropriate day and time for his dividend, bringing with him his identity card, pass-book, deposit receipt, gift coupon, or other evidence of his claim, and also his signature chop, if he uses one. If anyone has lost his pass-book, or deposit receipt, he should immediately

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report his loss at the Official Receiver's Office, Sutherland House, 10th Floor, 3 Chater Road, Hong Kong.

If a depositor or gift coupon holder is unable to attend in person, he can authorise payment to his representative by completing a form of Authority for Payment of Dividend. Copies of the form are available during normal office hours from today onwards at the Official Receiver's Office.

Creditors who have filed separate proofs of debts and whose proofs have been admitted are being notified separately of the dates and times for collection of their dividends.

A Warning

Creditors are strongly advised to have nothing to do with any unauthorised person, and in particular NOT to hand over their documents to anyone other than the authorised staff inside the Official Receiver's Office.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a press notice giving details of arrangements for paying the dividend are distributed separately in the Press Boxes, Government Information Services, this evening.

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PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG FESTIVAL

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Note to Editors: The Festival of Hong Kong, which will be held from November 23 to December 2, will be the largest ever held in Hong Kong. As in previous Festivals, the programme consists of a wide variety of events and wherever possible special facilities will be provided for the news and broadcasting media.

A briefing will be held in the 35 mm theatre at the G.I.S. at 4.30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) when the press arrangements for the Festival will be discussed. Suggestions from members of the press on improving facilities will be welcomed.

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TEMPORARY WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises in Tsim Sha Tsui will be interrupted for five hours as from 1 a.m. on Friday (November 9) to enable a test for leakage to be carried out.

The area affected is bounded by Nathan Road, Carnarvon Road, Hanoi Road, Hart Road, Chatham Road and Cameron Road.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CENTRAL

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New traffic arrangements will be introduced in a number of streets in Central on Thursday (November 8) to improve traffic flow in the area.

With effect from 10 a.m. that day, sections of Rumsey Street and Hillier Street between Des Voeux Road Central and Connaught Road Central will be re-routed to one-way northbound traffic.

Man Wah Lane will be re-routed to one-way southbound traffic. Tunnel bus No. 104 will run via Man Wah Lane instead of Rumsey Street.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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GRADUATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

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A presentation of certificates to the eighth group of students to graduate from the Physiotherapy Training School at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be held on Thursday (November 8).

The ceremony will start at 3.15 p.m. in the Physiotherapy Department's gymnasium.

Professor A.R. Hodgson will address the gathering and present certificates.

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Note to Editors: Representatives from the Press, Radio and TV stations are invited to attend and cover the occasion. Light refreshments will be served.

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POSTAL SERVICES IN OUTLYING AREAS

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Special postal facilities are provided by the Post Office in less populated rural areas for the convenience of residents.

A mobile post office calls regularly at smaller towns and remoter villages and temporary postal centres are set up at fairs, agricultural shows and other large gatherings.

"The purpose of the mobile post office is to serve rapidly developing rural areas until the need to set up regular post offices in such areas is justified," a Post Office spokesman explained.

The mobile post office is a 25-cwt Ford van which provides all the counter facilities of an ordinary post office, including the sale of stamps, postal stationery, the sale and encashment of postal orders, acceptance and payment of money orders and the acceptance of registered articles.

A post box for ordinary postal items is also provided.

The mobile post office is manned by a driver and a postal clerk. They work from Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., travelling through towns and villages at Ping Shan, Hung Shui Kiu, Lam Tei, Tuen Mun, Kwu Tung and San Wai, among others.

Postage stamps are also available from many licensed stamp vendors and the Post Office issues licences freely to anyone prepared to sell stamps.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a picture of the mobile post office are boxed for collection.

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LION ROCK INTERCHANGE PARTIALLY OPENED

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The Lion Rock Interchange at the junction of Waterloo Road and Lung Cheung Road was partially opened to traffic today.

The $7.2 million interchange is the first of 11 new interchanges along the Lung Cheung/Taipo/Ching Cheung Road Route to be brought into operation.

It will be finished entirely by the middle of next month with the completion of the circular bridge structure on the south-eastern side of the flyover.

Commenting on the partial opening of the Lion Rock Interchange, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said that the traffic in the area would be improved considerably, especially on weekends.

The Lion Rock Interchange, which has been designed and supervised by Maunsell Consultants Asia, is part of a major road improvement scheme between Kwun Tong and Kwai Chung along the Kowloon Foothills.

These interchanges have been designed to permit unimpeded traffic flow along the route and to eliminate conflicting traffic movements at the major intersections.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.