



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, November 23, 1972

INTENSIVE DRIVE TO CLEAN UP THE HARBOUR

The trial period for the boat-to-boat refuse collection service and the general scavenging service in the harbour is to be extended for another six months, with a further expansion to the existing harbour cleansing fleet.

At the same time, a roving scavenging service will be set up in the central harbour area in a concerted drive to clear drifting timber and refuse.

A Marine Department spokesman said today that floating timber is often found littering the central harbour area, the entrances to the two main commercial dockyards at Hung Hom and Quarry Bay, and the entrance to the Government Dockyard at Yau Ma Tei.

This presents a hazard to small craft travelling in the harbour area, especially at night.

Since the initial expansion of the cleansing service last May, approximately 35 tons of rubbish have been collected from the water each day; 25 tons from the harbour, five from the Yau Ma Tei and Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelters, and five from Aberdeen.

But, the spokesman said, the figure represents less than half the total amount of rubbish thrown into the water.

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If an acceptable standard of cleanliness is to be maintained in the harbour, the existing cleansing fleet must be expanded, he said.

The Director of Marine has, therefore, recommended the addition of four units to the existing fleet for a trial period of six months, comprising four mechanised cargo boats and 12 sampans.

The total amount of refuse collected can then be measured to make a more accurate assessment of the needs to maintain the harbour in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

The Marine Department is also launching a big cleansing operation, as part of the "Clean Hong Kong" campaign, to deal with refuse accumulating in 12 major areas in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

The existing harbour cleansing fleet can only cope with four of these areas each day and the new units will assist with the remainder.

Of the 12 areas, five are regarded as litter "black spots" which require more attention: the area from Hok Yuen to Lei Yue Mun; from Blake Pier to Wan Chai Ferry Pier; from Wan Chai Ferry Pier to the western entrance to the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter; and from the entrance to the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter to Shau Kei Wan.

"These five areas are always very dirty, and should be cleansed daily. This is where the extra units can help," the spokesman said.

The estimated cost of the expansion to the fleet is \$250,000. The vessels will be hired on a contract basis, the same as the existing arrangement.

The Marine Department will also employ additional staff to provide the necessary supervision for the cleansing service.

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RED CROSS BLOOD COLLECTION UNIT TO BE STRENGTHENED

The Mobile Blood Collection Unit of the Red Cross of Hong Kong will be strengthened with the addition of a well-equipped and sophisticated vehicle from West Germany early next year.

The Lotteries Fund has given capital grant of \$371,000 to the Red Cross Society to meet the cost of the vehicle.

The vehicle will have special equipment, including a blood refrigerator capable of taking up to 250 units at a time. There will also be a blood donation cabin with eight beds -- four fixed and four hammock type -- a refreshment area and a toilet.

A spokesman for the Red Cross described the vehicle as a "self-contained and sophisticated blood collection centre in miniature".

"Acting as the spearhead of the Mobile Blood Collection Unit, the vehicle is expected to go a long way towards increasing the number of donors. It will be easier for the Unit to reach the more distant areas in the New Territories and various resettlement estates throughout Hong Kong," he said.

The spokesman added that the present inadequacy both in terms of manpower and well-equipped and self-contained vehicles resulted in a loss of efficiency in the operation of the the Mobile Unit.

Meanwhile, the demand for blood from hospitals in Hong Kong has been increasing and the Red Cross hoped to collect 36,000 units in 1972-73 -- an increase of 6,700 units over the previous year.

At present, the Red Cross collects an average of 3,000 units a month.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO TEMPORARY FLYOVER

Improvements are to be made to the Prince Edward Road temporary flyover which was erected over Waterloo Road at the end of August.

Semi-permanent lighting is to be installed over the flyover to replace the existing system which relies on a series of four floodlights erected on an adjacent building.

China Light and Power Co. Ltd. is to run a power cable along the flyover and erect five standard lamps which, according to the consulting engineers, will provide a more even distribution of lighting over the roadway.

At the same time, the road surface will be improved to eliminate any uneven spots which may have developed since the temporary structure was put into position.

To enable the work to be carried out the flyover will be closed for six hours from midnight on Saturday to six a.m. on Sunday (November 26).

During this period east bound traffic along Prince Edward Road will be diverted via Knight Street, Boundary Street and Earl Street. Westbound traffic will be reduced to one lane on the flyover on Sunday until the work is completed.

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TRAINED BLIND WORKERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

The head of the newly-created Rehabilitation Division of the Social Welfare Department, Mr. T.P. Khoo, today appealed to employers in Hong Kong to engage trained blind staff for certain telephone and typing jobs.

He said the Hong Kong Society for the Blind's Rotary Training Centre in Shau Kei Wan had trained a number of blind for these tasks since it began to function some years ago.

The training has included the operation of a telephone switchboard, especially adapted to suit the blind, normal business conversation in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin, and typing from a dictaphone.

Mr. Khoo said the Division's Liaison and Placement Unit had assisted many of the centre's graduate trainees into jobs in hospitals, voluntary agencies, government departments, commercial firms and factories where they had proved to be "efficient, reliable and conscientious," and where they had "earned a good reputation for themselves and other trained blind."

But of a group of five young blind graduates from a recent training class, only two had so far been assisted into appropriate jobs, and the other three are still waiting for employment.

Mr. Khoo urged employers to come forward and help in the employment of blind workers.

Prospective employers should get in touch, in the first place, with Mr. Paul Leung, Officer in charge of the Liaison and Placement Unit, telephone K-419221, or H-707878.

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MORE INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED

There was a slight rise in the notifications of infectious diseases in October, a total of 801 compared with September's 786, according to statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department.

Of the 123 deaths recorded, 122 were from tuberculosis, and one from typhoid.

The incidence of bacillary dysentery dropped from 43 to 28 cases, and there were no notifications of cerebrospinal meningitis, diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

While gasterointestinal diseases such as typhoid and bacillary dysentery continued to be notified during the month, the trend in their incidence was one of decrease compared with previous years.

"But their occurrence indicates the need for constant vigilance in regard to personal hygiene," said Dr. J.K. Craig, Deputy Director of Medical and Health Services (Health).

"The 122 deaths from tuberculosis emphasise the importance of early prevention and diagnosis, presently being highlighted by an anti-tuberculosis publicity campaign."

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

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GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES OFFICERS RETIRE

Two officers of the Government Supplies Department are to retire soon after serving a total of 32 years with the government.

They are Mr. Edward Hancock, Chief Supplies Officer and Mr. Wu Ka-lau, Supplies Officer.

Mr. Hancock first joined the government as a stores officer in the Stores Department in November, 1952. He had also served in the Public Works, Medical and Health, and Marine Departments.

He was promoted to Senior Supplies Officer in April 1, 1965 and to his present rank in 1969.

As Chief Supplies Officer (Mainland) Mr. Hancock has been in charge of all government storage depots and supplies administration in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Mr. Wu Ka-lau first joined the government as a Workshop Supervisor in the Stores Department in February 1960, and was promoted to Supplies Officer in February 1965.

He has been in charge of the manufacture and maintenance of furniture used in government offices and quarters since his appointment.

To mark their retirement, the Director of Government Supplies, Mr. F.J. Young, will make a presentation to them on behalf of their colleagues on Monday (November 27).

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the presentation ceremony covered. It will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Monday (November 27) at the Government Supplies Department Recreation Club located on the top floor of the department's headquarters in Oil Street, North Point.

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THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD SCHOOL

Lady MacLehose said today that a good school should not simply be one that is well run, produces good examination results, and organises academic and extra-curricular activities.

Speaking at the annual speech day of St. Paul's Convent School, she said: "The essence of a good school, to my mind lies in its capacity for producing students of good character, fitted for any role which their future life may call on them to play."

The following is the full text of Lady MacLehose's speech:

"It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be here with you today on the happy occasion of your school's annual Speech Day, and I thank Sister Isabel for her kind invitation.

"In the Inauguration Ceremony of St. Paul's School at Lam Tin on the second of May this year, I praised the fine work the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres have done in Hong Kong, particularly in the field of education. The Lam Tin School is a new venture, but with all the experience gained here at St. Paul's Convent School and the St. Paul's Secondary School in Ventris Road, I am sure that the "junior sister" will soon be establishing the same high reputation as her elder sisters.

"I am, as I am sure you all will be, looking forward enormously to listening to the St. Paul's Choir this evening. Their performances have always been outstanding, and I know you will agree with me when I say that they are more than just a school choir.

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"In the past, during my association with St. Paul's Convent School what impressed me most was the helpful friendliness between the staff and students, and I am glad to see that this still flourishes, and truly exemplifies the Paulinian spirit.

"A good school is not simply one that is well run, produces good examination results, and organises academic and extra-curricular activities. The essence of a good school, to my mind lies in its capacity for producing students of good character, fitted for any role which their future life may call on them to play, and certainly St. Paul's possesses this rare and valuable quality.

"On every Speech Day it is always the graduates who are in the limelight. They receive their certificates and are soon to leave school and take their place in the world. To those of you who have won prizes, I offer my warmest congratulations and I wish you all continued success and happiness in the future."

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.