



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 25, 1972

MR. I.M. LIGHTBODY TO BE APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR HOUSING

Mr. I.M. Lightbody, the present Commissioner for Resettlement, is to be appointed Secretary for Housing and will take charge of the new Housing Department.

During his speech to the opening session of the Legislative Council, the Governor announced plans to streamline the organisation of departments responsible for public housing so that they would be better able to cope with the major task of building homes for 1.8 million people during the next 10 years.

"To give the programme support and thrust which it demands, we therefore propose to make a fresh start," the Governor said.

The new Housing Department, which will be established on April 1, 1973, will be responsible, in cooperation with the Public Works Department, for carrying through all aspects of this public housing programme in Hong Kong, including town planning, construction and the administration of the new Estates.

The department will therefore be able to provide all services required to implement the policy of the new Housing Authority which will shortly assume overall responsibility for public housing.

/Mr. Donald Liao,

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Mr. Donald Liao, the present Commissioner for Housing, will retain his present responsibilities until April, 1973, when he will assume a key position in the new conception of housing administration.

It is expected that Mr. Lightbody will shortly cease to be Commissioner for Resettlement so that he can concentrate on the necessary planning of the new Housing Authority and Department, and that Mr. J.C.C. Walden will temporarily take over the post of Commissioner for Resettlement.

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OPENS POLYCLINIC AT KWAI CHUNG

Ideal Combination Of Community Effort

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra today opened the South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic, near the industrial town of Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Princess said: "The provision of adequate medical services for the fast growing city of Hong Kong seems to have been achieved in a remarkably competent way by the efforts of voluntary organisations, private individuals and the Government -- surely the ideal combination for anything involving the well-being of every member of a community."

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa spoke briefly on the need for such a polyclinic in the growing industrial town, referring in particular to some of the services that it would be providing. He thanked the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for its generous donation towards construction of the polyclinic.

He then invited Her Royal Highness to unveil a plaque and to declare the polyclinic open.

The polyclinic is designed to serve the population in the rapidly developing Tsuen Wan-Kwai Chung township. The first stage, now completed, consists of a three-storey standard urban clinic and maternity home, and a two-storey chest clinic and chest X-ray centre.

/Stage II

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Stage II will consist of a specialist clinic and a rehabilitation centre.

Capital cost of Stage I of the project, estimated at \$2.7 million, was met by a donation of \$2.7 million by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, with the Government paying for the furniture equipment and the annual cost of operating the polyclinic.

The following is the text of the speech by Her Royal Highness:

"The provision of adequate medical services for the fast growing city of Hong Kong seems to have been achieved in a remarkably competent way by the efforts of voluntary organizations, private individuals and the Government - surely the ideal combination for anything involving the well-being of every member of a community.

"This Polyclinic, designed to serve the people of a very heavily populated area, has been to a large extent made possible by the generous donations of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and is, I understand, the first stage in an ambitious project which will eventually provide specialist services for many men, women and children.

"Great credit is due to all who have contributed towards the design and construction of this Medical Centre, and to the Government who helped so much by providing funds for the furniture and special equipment, and who will staff and run it.

"All together, the final outcome is a Centre of which Hong Kong can be justly proud, and it therefore gives me the greatest pleasure to declare open the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung Jockey Club polylinic."

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AIM OF THE TEN-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME

The aim of the housing programme announced by the Governor in the Legislative Council last week is to provide homes for enough people so that squatter huts will become a thing of the past, and to improve living conditions in the densely crowded urban areas and in public housing estates of today.

Homes for many hundreds of thousands are also required to clear land for development to meet emergencies and to provide for renewal and improvement of the old tenement areas of Hong Kong and Kowloon.

At the same time the population is growing so that the combined efforts of the public and the private sectors have to meet the need for homes for a 18.5 per cent increase in population over the ten-year period in addition to meeting these other objectives.

A government spokesman said: "It is hoped that this programme will eliminate the housing shortage which, despite the fact that 1.6 million people have already been housed in public housing estates, continues to be one of our remaining problems and, as the Governor had said, 'one of the continuing and major sources of friction between Government and the people.'"

To accomplish this programme, the Tsuen Wan conurbation, Shatin and Tuen Mun will each undergo immense changes and engineering development to provide land for homes for half a million more people in each of these towns.

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Not only homes will be required. Roads to the new towns will be needed, and schools, clinics, police stations, welfare buildings, parks and playgrounds must be built and work provided if the towns are to be made pleasant and acceptable places to live in.

The spokesman said that the target figure had been arrived at by assessing the number of people who would require housing now to meet the main objectives.

This figure was 940,000, comprising 320,000 squatters or occupants of licensed areas, 60,000 occupants of cottage areas, 430,000 tenants of resettlement estates involved in renewal schemes or so over crowded that they need larger accommodation, 80,000 unsatisfactorily housed in some new Territories towns and marine population of 50,000 requiring rehousing ashore, including boat squatters.

In addition, an allowance must also be made for those people who are at present adequately housed in Government housing, but who will become inadequately housed during the ten-year period because of population growth. This is expected to be 200,000.

Finally, an element for the expected shortfall in the private sector must be taken into account. The total population in housing in the private sector on April 1, 1973 is estimated to be 1,820,000 of whom 310,000 require rehousing if each household is to have a self-contained dwelling.

Taking into account the estimated 18.5 per cent population growth and the net gain of 500,000 spaces expected in the private sector over this 10-year period, there is likely to be a shortfall of 148,000 spaces for which provision has been made in the grand target of 1.8 million spaces.

This target is aimed principally at the urban areas but in addition rehousing for many thousands living in poor conditions in the New Territories will be needed.

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA GOES SHOPPING

H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, accompanied by her husband, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, spent more than half an hour this morning shopping at the Welfare Handicrafts Shop at Salisbury Road, Kowloon.

The Royal couple were met at the shop by Mrs. S. Archer, Chairman of the Management Committee of Welfare Handicrafts; and Mrs. M. Taylor, the shop supervisor.

Looking radiant in a black and white printed dress with black handbag and matching shoes, the Princess showed keen interest in the products displayed in the shop.

The Royal couple were intrigued by the numerous attractive items of pewter products, soft toys, Chinese dolls, pyjamas and embroidered handbags. They finally bought a few pewter ash trays, pen holders and embroidered egg cosy.

Their visit attracted a big crowd outside the shop and tourists were seen busily taking out their cameras to take pictures of the Royal visitors.

When she stepped out from the shop, Princess Alexandra stopped to shake hands and say 'hello' to the on-lookers.

The Salisbury Road Welfare Handicrafts Shop was opened in June 1956 by a Management Committee appointed by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

The shop is a non-profit-making sales organisation designed to help member agencies of the Council to market goods made by people in need of aid. In return, the agencies help and train people who are socially and physically handicapped so that they may become self-supporting.

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There are four such Welfare Handicrafts shops in Hong Kong. About 800 people are helped by them each month.

Note to Editors: . . . Copies of a photograph showing the Princess shopping are distributed in the G.I.S. Press Boxes this evening.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING IN POTTINGER STREET

The section of Pottinger Street between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central will be re-routed one-way from south to north from 10 a.m. on Friday (October 27).

This will enable traffic on Queen's Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central to link directly with the newly widened part of Connaught Road Central.

Appropriate signs will be placed to guide motorists.

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H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA LEAVING TOMORROW

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra is leaving Hong Kong tomorrow (Thursday) at the end of a six-day official visit.

The Princess and her husband, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, will be seen off at the airport by the Governor and Lady MacLehose, at about 3 p.m.

Earlier, at Queen's Pier, the Royal couple will say good-bye to people of Hong Kong before boarding the "Lady Maurine" for the airport.

She will be greeted by a 21-gun salute as the "Lady Maurine" passes H.M.S. Tamar. In the Hung Hom Fairway, she will review two squadrons of Marine Police Launches.

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Note to Editors: Full details of tomorrow's programme are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes this evening.

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MORE JOB-SEEKERS HELPED FIND EMPLOYMENT

The Local Employment Service of the Labour Department registered 9,531 job-seekers and introduced 5,611 of them to employers for selection interviews in the third quarter of 1972.

Of these, 1,797 were successfully placed in employment, representing an increase of 106 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 1971 and an increase of 56 per cent over the second quarter of this year.

Of the 1,797 people placed in employment, 893 were placed in industry, 506 in commerce, 307 in Government service, 38 in the public utilities and 53 in other establishments.

Seven of the successful applicants received an initial salary of \$1,000 or more; 319 started work at salaries of \$500 - \$999; 1108 at \$300 - \$499 and 363 at below \$300.

Of the 893 people placed in industry, 425 were apprentices who were helped to enter into modern apprenticeship schemes by the Apprenticeship Training Unit of the Labour Department.

At present, there are 9,445 job-seekers registered with the Service, varying from the young and inexperienced, to experienced and qualified persons looking for better employment.

The Service has on its books 597 vacancies, ranging from executive to office boy in commerce, engineer to general worker in industry and artisan to messenger in the civil service.

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The Local Employment Service provides free facilities to assist employers and job-seekers alike.

Job-seekers are invited to register personally at any branch of the Service, bringing with them their identity card and a passport-size photograph.

Employers with vacancies which they wish to fill are invited to telephone any office of the Service at the following addresses:-

- * New Rodney Building, 99, Queensway, Ground floor, Hong Kong. Tel. 5-249081 E. 70 & 77.
- * Canton Road Government Offices, Fourth floor, Kowloon. Tel. 3-688131 & 3-675514.
- * Post Office Building, First floor, Un Chau Street, Shamshuipo, Kowloon. Tel. 3-875837.
- * Kwun Tong District Branch Office Building, Second floor, Tung Yan Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Tel. 3-896539.
- * Chartered Bank Building, Third floor, Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories. Tel. 12-216722.

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PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRINCESS' DEPARTURE

Note to Editors:

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will be at Queen's Pier tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon to say goodbye to a number of people assembled inside the pier.

For this occasion, press arrangements are similar to those for the arrival of the Princess at the same place last Saturday, except that Position "D" will not be formed. All Press representatives should be in position by 2 p.m. All the Press positions are static, and it will not be possible for press representatives to move from one position to another.

For press coverage of Princess Alexandra's departure at Kai Tak Airport, press arrangements will be similar to those for the arrival last Saturday. There will be a photographic position on the tarmac near the aircraft steps while reporters will be accommodated in a position alongside the apron access road.

Television and newsreel teams using cameras on tripods will be able to use the roof of the western passenger finger.

Press representatives are requested to assemble outside the Press Room in the Kai Tak Airport Terminal Building by 2.15 p.m.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW PROGRAMME OF RADIO H.K. TV

Note to Editors: A Press conference will be held tomorrow (Thursday) to announce a new programme of Radio Hong Kong Television.

The conference will take place at 10.30 a.m. at Studio I of Radio Hong Kong (Television), Broadcasting House, Broadcast Drive, Kowloon.

Representatives of the Press are cordially invited to attend. Transport will be provided. Press representatives are requested to assemble at the car park of the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 10 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday) morning.

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TEMPORARY WATER CHARGES COLLECTION CENTRE

Temporary collecting centre will be set up by the Tai Po District Office at Shatin for the collection of water charges for the third quarter of 1972.

The collection centre at Shatin will operate at the Shatin Rural Committee Office on October 27 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Residents of the Shatin district are invited to use these facilities which are provided for their convenience.

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TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of premises in Shek Kip Mei area will be turned off for five hours from 1 a.m. on Friday (October 27).

The temporary water supply interruption is to enable works to be carried out on leakage test in the area.

The area to be affected is bounded by Nam Cheong Street, Wai Chi Street, Wor Chai Street, Tai Hang Tung Road and Tai Hang Sai Street, including Hong Kong Settlers Housing Corporation.

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POSSIBLE BAN ON MIRROR WINDOWS IN CARS

The Commissioner for Transport announced today (Wednesday) that he intends to seek a change in the legislation so as to ban the use of mirror windows in motor vehicles.

He said this type of glass, although not prohibited under existing legislation, can reflect the sun and blind other drivers.

In view of the possibility of a legal ban on mirror windows, the Commissioner advised motorists not to install reflective material on their vehicle windows.

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APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

A Government spokesman today described as "far from accurate" certain remarks made during yesterday's opening of the Public Services International (P.S.I.) Third Asian Regional Conference concerning the granting of leave to civil servants to attend the conference.

He said the Colonial Secretary had personally given instruction that any civil servants who applied for leave to attend the conference should be allowed to do so.

He was referring to the remarks, published in today's newspapers, which alleged that civil servants had been prevented from attending the conference because of Government's refusal to grant them special leave.

The spokesman explained that one of the Staff Associations affiliated to the P.S.I. applied in writing to the Establishment Secretary on October 11, 1972, for special leave for five of its members so that they could attend the conference from October 24 to 26, 1972.

Other five staff associations submitted their applications to the head of the departments concerned at about the same time, he said.

"In accordance with the practice first laid down in May 1970 when the P.S.I. held a regional seminar in Hong Kong, the associations were notified well before the opening of the conference that officers could not be granted absence from duty but that they might apply for casual or vacation leave and that wherever possible, their applications would be approved.

"If it so happened that an officer did not have any leave credited to him, the associations were informed that such officers could apply for an advance of leave, and that their applications would be sympathetically considered," he said.

In this connection, the spokesman said, it was grossly unfair to suggest that Government had in any way prevented members of Civil Service Staff Association from attending the P.S.I. conference.

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