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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, May 2, 1972

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Visits Aberdeen And Ap Lei Chau

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His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, spent about three hours this afternoon seeing for himself the industrial and other development in the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau area.

During his extensive tour, the Governor inspected market facilities, shipyards, road projects and a 199-year-old temple. He also took a sampan ride among the 5,000 odd fishing and squatter boats, floating restaurants and pleasure craft in Aberdeen harbour.

Sir Murray was accompanied on the visit by the City District Commissioner (Hong Kong), Mr. David T.K. Wong; the Director of Lands & Survey, Mr. R.C. Clarke; and the City District Officer (Western), Mr. Rafael Hui.

He started the tour by going up to the roof of a Shek Pai Wan Resettlement Estate block, where, from a vantage point overlooking the entire area, he was briefed on the general planning of development in Aberdeen.

Later, he proceeded by jeep to the old Aberdeen market. He saw the usual marketing activities as he walked through the crowded area and chatted with stall holders and shoppers. The market was built more than 60 years ago and plans are now on hand for its reprovisioning.

/Continuing .....

Continuing the tour, the Governor walked to the waterfront and inspected the private reclamation at Shek Pai Wan, which will be used for private development.

Sir Murray then boarded the sampan for Ap Lei Chau, where at the London Pier, he was met on arrival by the Chief Estate Surveyor, Mr. J.D. Johnston.

From the pier, the Governor went to inspect the site for the first resettlement estate on the island, which has a population of about 11,000. The estate will have six blocks with a total of 3,423 units, capable of housing about 21,600 people.

Joint Project

He walked down the main street of Ap Lei Chau to a sitting-out area under construction at the Ap Lei Chau Kaifong Primary School. The sitting-out area is a joint Army -- City District Office project.

From there, he saw the wreckage of the Jumbo floating restaurant, the site for a possible second resettlement estate, and the proposed site for a bridge connection with the mainland.

From the sitting-out area, Sir Murray walked along the foreshore to see some of the shipyards and marine engine shops.

He then stopped at the Hung Shing Temple. Built in 1773, it is one of the oldest temples in Hong Kong.

The Governor returned to Aberdeen by ferry and then drove through the industrial area in Aberdeen and the Wong Chuk Hang Low Cost Housing Estate.

/Before .....

Before concluding his tour, the Governor stopped at Wong Chuk Hang Path from where he had a look at the road extension and the proposed tunnel connection with Wanchai area. The road extension project is designed to ease traffic congestion in Western District, providing an easy link between Wong Chuk Hang and Wong Nai Chung Gap.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

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Water supply to an area in Tai Hang will be interrupted for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, to enable a leakage test to be carried out by the Waterworks Office.

Premises affected include Nos. 13-55 and 30-70 Tai Hang Road, Nos. 3-12 Fuk Kwan Ave., Nos. 1-16 Li Kwan Ave. and Nos. 9-12 Chun Fai Terrace.

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C.A.S. COMBINED SERVICES EXERCISE

To Practise Inter-Service Co-operation, Liaison

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The Civil Aid Services will hold a large-scale exercise on Sunshine Island on Sunday to practise inter-service co-operation and liaison in the event of an earthquake and tidal wave hitting Hong Kong.

Exercise "Holocaust" will involve practice in rescue, first aid and evacuation of casualties by land, sea and air by men of the C.A.S. Command Units, Warden Service, Rescue Units and Pay and Records Unit.

Other services taking part will include the Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force, the Fire Services and the Auxiliary Fire Services, the Marine Department and the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police (Marine)and the Auxiliary Medical Service.

In addition to supplying manpower, the services will also provide equipment such as helicopters, landing craft, fast launches and assault boats.

The exercise is set against a background of simulated incidents: the Sunshine Island has been severely damaged by a typhoon and a tidal wave and a ship, struck by the tidal wave, had capsized and sunk just off the coast of the Island. More than 300 victims, including local inhabitants and crew and passengers of wrecked ships and crashed planes, have been killed, injured or trapped.

/Highlights .....

Highlights of the exercise will be demonstrations on rescue and evacuation by helicopters and fast launches of marooned casualties, conventional rescue of casualties up and down rocky cliffsides, air dropping of C.A.S. Rescue Unit personnel and use of army assault boats to remove casualties.

The Commander, British Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Ward, the Commodore-in-Charge, Hong Kong, Commodore R.E.S. Wykes-Sneyd and the Commodore, Royal Air Force, Hong Kong, Air Commodore C.L. Godwin will watch the exercise.

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, the Defence Secretary, Mr. G.P. Lloyd, and the Director of Fire Services, Mr. A.E.H. Wood, accompanied by the C.A.S. Commissioner, Mr. P.C. Woo and the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. R.H. Lobo, will also be present.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the exercise covered.

A boat provided by the Marine Department will leave the Hong Kong Central Government Pier (east of the Hong Kong and Macao Ferry Pier) for Sunshine Island at 8.45 a.m. sharp on Sunday.

Press representatives covering the exercise are requested to report to the C.A.S. Liaison Officer, Mr. D.W. Luke, before 8.35 a.m.

The boat will leave Sunshine Island at about 12.45 p.m. for the Central Government Pier.

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LADY MACLEHOSE OPENS ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL IN LAM TIN

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Lady MacLehose said today that providing a fine new school situated in an area where the need is great "is yet another example of what can be achieved by the collaboration between Government and a private sponsoring body."

Lady MacLehose was speaking at the opening ceremony of St. Paul's School at Lam Tin this afternoon.

She said that Hong Kong was now able to provide free primary education for all and a great expansion was taking place with the aim of providing secondary education for all who sought it.

The following is the full text of her speech:

"On my return to Hong Kong in November of last year one of the first things I did was to come and see my former head-mistress. Owing to the traffic congestion I arrived in this enormous housing estate very late. During that frustrating drive I realised what a lot of development had taken place since I was last in Hong Kong.

"I was very happy to learn that as long ago as 1966 the Order of St. Paul de Chartres foresaw the need for schools in the new housing developments, and asked for a site. While this is the newest venture of the order in Hong Kong, I should like to pay my tribute to all the sisters have achieved in Hong Kong particularly in the field of education, since they first came here in 1848.

/"Hong Kong .....

"Hong Kong is now able to provide free primary education for all: the objective has now moved on to the provision of secondary education for all who seek it, and a great expansion is taking place. This fine new school is one more step towards this provision. Situated in an area where the need is great it is yet another example of what can be achieved by collaboration between Government and a private sponsoring body. I should like to congratulate all those concerned in this project - the planners, the buildrs, the departments concerned and the providers of funds both Government and private.

"When I came to see Sister Rose Mary she asked if I would open the school - 'You see we've been keeping it for you.' Well of course I feel very honoured that the Order should hold up the official opening of the school for me. So now, after it has proved itself for nearly a whole school year, I would say that it has already got off to a good start and is now well down the straight.

"I have very great pleasure in declaring it open, and running on well. To those who teach and study here - best of luck."

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PLAYGROUND AND SITTING-OUT AREA

To Be Built On Old Ngau Tau Kok Market

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A large playground and sitting-out area will be constructed on the site of the old Ngau Tau Kok Market at the junction of Chun Wah Street and Ngau Tau Kok Road to improve the environment and to provide more and better recreational facilities to residents living in the crowded Jordan Valley Resettlement Estate.

Tenders for this project, covering an area of 9,200 square feet, are expected to be called shortly.

The old Ngau Tau Kok Market is no longer serving its purpose following the opening in March of a new market built by government nearby at a cost of $580,000.

The new market, covering an area of 28,000 feet, was built in accordance with the laid down policy of the Urban Council to improve stage by stage the marketing facilities in urban areas, especially in those densely-populated resettlement estates.

The former lessees of the old market have already been allocated stalls in the new market and licensed hawkers who had pitches in the vicinity of the old market were similarly allocated pitches in the new market.

The area immediately adjacent to the old market is at present occupied by 66 illegal structures. In a recent survey jointly carried out by the Urban Services and Resettlement Departments, it was found that 24 of these structures were being used for domestic and storage purposes, 29 for domestic and hawking purposes and the remaining 13 as hawking stalls.

/Notices .....

Notices will be served to the occupants of these illegal structures tomorrow (Wednesday) by the two departments concerned to the effect that they are required to move out by June 1 to make way for the construction of the playground and sitting-out areas.

The occupants of five of the squatter huts are found to have already been allocated with rooms in resettlement estates. The others will be offered accommodation in a licensed area if they are genuinely homeless.

A spokesman for the Urban Services Department to-day said that anyone found genuinely trading in the old market as a hawker would be given a site if he or an immediate member of his family has not yet been allocated one.

Hawker Stalls

Of the owners of the illegal hawker stalls, 29 of them will be offered sites in the new market. These hawkers have been invited to take part in a ballot for the allocation of new sites on May 17 at the Hawker Record Office, Sai Yee Street, Mongkok.

For those who feel that they are entitled to sites in the new market but are not given such an offer are asked to go to the Jordan Valley Resettlement Estate Office on May 18 for an interview. An interview board jointly set up by representatives of the Resettlement Department, the Urban Services Department and the City District Office, Kwun Tong, will be there to hear their claims and investigate into these individual cases.

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The spokesman said that with the rapid development in the Ngau Tau Kok and Jordan Valley areas, traffic along Chun Wah Road, which is the only main road leading to the Jordan Valley Resettlement Estate, is increasing every day.

Many complaints have been received from residents in the estate that illegal structures have extended and occupied the pavement and part of the roadway, forcing school children to walk on the carriageway, thus endangering their life, he added.

The spokesman pointed out that removal of illegal hawkers will also increase the viability of the new market and is in line with the policy of the Urban Council to provide proper marketing facilities to the people.

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TIN HAU FESTIVAL AT JOSS HOUSE BAY

Warning Against Overloading Of Vessels

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The Marine Department today warned that during the Tin Hau Festival on Saturday (May 6) any vessels found to be overloaded at Joss House Bay will be turned back, and the owner or operator may be subsequently prosecuted.

A department spokesman said no vessels would be permitted to berth alongside the piers or pontoons at Joss House Bay other than for the purpose of embarking or disembarking of passengers.

He said that Marine Department and Marine Police launches would be stationed near Lei Yue Mun to check on all vessels.

"All persons visiting Joss House Bay on this day are enjoined to co-operate with Marine Department and Marine Police personnel in the interest of their own safety and the safety of others.

"Marine Department and Marine Police personnel will be on hand to direct and control small craft," he said.

The spokesman said the Army would materially assist the festival celebrations this year by supplying an additional landing pontoon at Joss House Bay. This pontoon would be restricted to embarking only, after about 11.00 a.m. on that day.

He also reminded members of the public that the last ferry to Joss House Bay on that day will leave Wanchai before noon.

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WORK STARTS ON EXHUMING ILLEGAL GRAVES

In Castle Peak District

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The Urban Services Department began work yesterday on exhuming illegal graves in the area of Tseng Tau Tsuen in the Castle Peak District.

Further exhumation of illegal graves will be carried out as from May 8 in the general area of Shek Kok Tsui to Tsing Shan Tsuen.

A spokesman for the Yuen Long District Office said that advance notice of the exhumation has been posted on the graves for some months.

He reminded people that it is an offence under the Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance (Cap 132) to deposit, bury or scatter the ashes of any human remains other than in a gazetted cemetery.

The spokesman pointed out that offenders are liable to prosecution and a fine of $1,000 and six months' imprisonment.

The areas in which graves are now being exhumed fall within the lay-out for Castle Peak New Town. The exhumed remains will be reburied at Sandy Ridge cemetery.

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NEW GOVERNMENT KENNELS AT POKFULAM

Ready For Use Next Year

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Quarantine facilities for animals will be provided for the first time on Hong Kong Island when the new Government kennels at Pokfulam Road are ready for use early next year.

The new kennels will supplement the existing quarantine facilities at Sung Wong Toi Government Kennels in Kowloon and replace the ones at Kennedy Town. The Kennedy Town kennels do not have quarantine facilities.

The Pokfulam Kennels will have ten units for animals and pets imported from overseas, 20 units for biter dogs, 20 for stray dogs and ten pig and poultry pens.

It will also have a diesel incinerator for the disposal of animals carcasses and office and living accommodations.

The Kennedy Town Kennels will be closed after the Pokfulam Kennels have been put into use.

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Tuesday, May 2, 1972

SEAWALL FOUNDATION FOR CENTRAL RECLAMATION

Construction Work To Start Soon

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Work will start shortly on the construction of a seawall foundation for Central Reclamation Stage V situated to the west of the Macau Ferry Wharf.

It forms part of a reclamation project which will provide a site for a sewage screening plant, an area for the widening of Connaught Road West and Connaught Road Central and land for building development and open space.

In addition, about 60,000 square feet of the new reclamation will be allocated as a temporary cargo handling area.

Work on the construction of the seawall foundation is expected to commence in June, 1972 and will take about two years to complete.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.