



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY URGED TO MAKE
GREATER TRAINING EFFORT

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO TRAIN THE SKILLED MANPOWER IT NEEDS TO MEET ITS FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN A REPORT ON THE FIFTH MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY.

THE REPORT CONTAINS STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY, A FORECAST OF FUTURE TRAINING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES NECESSARY TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, ARE NOW ON SALE AT \$8 EACH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

THE REPORT GIVES A FORECAST OF THE NUMBER OF TECHNOLOGIST, TECHNICIAN AND CRAFTSMAN TRAINEES WHICH THE INDUSTRY NEEDS TO TAKE ON FOR TRAINING BETWEEN 1980 AND 1982.

THE BOARD HAS ALSO PROJECTED THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL WORKERS REQUIRED AT THE THREE LEVELS FROM 1982 TO 1987.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THE TOTAL TECHNICAL MANPOWER OF THE INDUSTRY HAS GROWN FROM 60 976 IN APRIL 1977 TO 87 956 IN APRIL THIS YEAR, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH OF 20.1 PER CENT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE REPORT SAID, THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD BEEN ENJOYING AN UNABATED GROWTH UNEQUALLED IN ITS HISTORY. HOWEVER, THE TRAINING BOARD WAS OF THE VIEW THAT DESPITE THE PRESENT APPARENT BUOYANT SITUATION, THE CAPACITY OF THE INDUSTRY TO EXPAND FURTHER WAS IN DOUBT BECAUSE OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS SUCH AS SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS AND SHARP RISE IN MATERIALS AND LABOUR COSTS.

TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE TRAINING BOARD CONSIDERED THAT THE INDUSTRY SHOULD STRIVE TO IMPROVE ITS PRODUCTIVITY AND TO OPTIMISE USE OF THE LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH BETTER TRAINING AND INCREASED MECHANISATION.

THE BOARD BELIEVED THAT THE PACE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK WOULD GRADUALLY LEVEL OFF AND THE INDUSTRY WOULD TAKE ON A MORE STEADY COURSE.

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TOUGH JOB FOR SHIP SEARCHERS

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DOWN IN THE ENGINE ROOM OF AN OCEAN-GOING VESSEL, A TEAM OF SWEAT-DRENCHED CUSTOMS OFFICERS IS CRAWLING IN AND OUT OF A MAZE OF PIPES AND TANKS SEEMINGLY UNAWARE OF THE HEAT, GRIME AND OVERPOWERING STENCH OF DIESEL FUME AND WASTE WATER IN THE BILGES.

THEY ARE EXAMINING EVERY INCH OF THE AREA IN THEIR SEARCH FOR SECRET COMPARTMENTS AND HIDDEN NOOKS AND CRANNIES USED TO CONCEAL DANGEROUS DRUGS OR OTHER CONTRABAND.

ANOTHER GROUP OF OFFICERS IS SEARCHING THE UPPER DECK, LIFE BOATS, BRIDGE HOUSING, CARGO BOOMS, WINCHES AND MASTHEADS, EXPOSED TO WHATEVER THE WHIM OF NATURE MAY BESTOW, CHILLING BREEZES, RAIN OR GALE FORCE WINDS.

AT THE SAME TIME A FURTHER TEAM OF OFFICERS CAN BE SEEN SCRAMBLING OVER THE CARGO IN THE SHIP'S HOLDS.

ALL THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF A DAY'S WORK BY OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE'S HARBOUR DIVISION UNDER THE COMMAND OF SUPERINTENDENT MR. A. SANDERS. THE DIVISION IS MADE UP OF THREE SUB-DIVISIONS, THE HARBOUR, THE MARINE AND THE RECENTLY FORMED KWAI CHUNG SUB-DIVISIONS.

THE HARBOUR SUB-DIVISION UNDER THE COMMAND OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MR. C.W. SZETO IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF ALL CONVENTIONAL SHIPPING ARRIVING IN HONG KONG, A MASSIVE JOB WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT ABOUT 18 000 OCEAN-GOING SHIPS AND 72 000 RIVER VESSELS ENTER AND LEAVE HONG KONG'S HARBOUR EACH YEAR. THIS IS COMPOUNDED BY A FURTHER 18 000 LOCAL CRAFT INCLUDING FISHING VESSELS, CARGO BOATS, LIGHTERS, AND TOW BOATS WHICH USE OUR HARBOUR MORE FREQUENTLY.

+BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPS AND VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING PORT EVERY DAY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SEARCH EVERY ONE OF THEM,+ MR. SZETO SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SHIPS RECEIVE ONLY A MINIMUM OF CUSTOMS INTERFERENCE WITH THEIR NORMAL OPERATIONS, BUT AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE SOME OF THEM ARE SELECTED FOR A THOROUGH AND EXHAUSTIVE CHECK.

+BEFORE SUCH A SELECTION IS MADE SPECIAL ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUCH AS THE VOYAGE ITINERARY, NATURE OF CARGO CARRIED AND TO WHOM CONSIGNED, COMPOSITION OF THE CREW, AND ANY RECORD OF INVOLVEMENT IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS,+ MR. SZETO SAID.

+WE HAVE A SEPARATE FILE FOR EACH AND EVERY SHIP THAT ENTERS PORT AND THESE AT PRESENT TOTAL MORE THAN 7 600. EACH OF THESE FILES CONTAINS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH ASSISTS US IN PLANNING OUR METHODS OF OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

+IF IT IS DECIDED THAT A SEARCH IS TO BE CONDUCTED IT WILL BE A THOROUGH AND EXHAUSTIVE ONE. IN SOME CASES, EVEN THE HULL, BALLAST AND WATERTANKS ARE INSPECTED BY OUR DIVERS,+ HE ADDED.

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THE DIVISION WORKS IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAVING A TELEPRINTER CONTACT WHICH PROVIDES UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION ON SHIPPING ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND MOVEMENTS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS.

OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE HARBOUR DIVISION INCLUDE THE MARINE SUB-DIVISION'S STRIKE AND SEARCH OPERATIONS ON OUTLYING ISLANDS, SEARCH OF NATIVE CRAFT, PROCESSING OF FERRY PASSENGERS AT THE HONG KONG/MACAU AND HONG KONG/CANTON FERRY TERMINALS, AND THE KWAI CHUNG SUB-DIVISION'S CLEARANCE OF CONTAINER SHIPPING AND CARGO AT THE 74-HECTARE CONTAINER COMPLEX IN KWAI CHUNG.

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ANNUAL CAMP FOR CAS CADETS

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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD A FOUR-DAY ANNUAL CAMP FOR ITS CADET CORPS AT WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 28).

ABOUT 800 MEMBERS FROM 20 CAS CADET UNITS WILL TAKE PART IN THE CAMP AIMED AT DEVELOPING THEIR LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, CO-OPERATION AND TALENTS. A SERIES OF GAMES, LAND AND WATER SPORT ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD.

THE CAS COMMISSIONER, MR. R.H. LOBO WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 29) AT 11.40 AM AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD AT WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE. MR. LOBO WILL ALSO INSPECT THE CAMP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CAS CADET CORPS ANNUAL CAMP OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 29) AT 11.40 AM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO USE CAS TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO GET TO THE CAMP ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT EITHER MR. TSE KWOK-FU AT THE CAS HEADQUARTERS, 100 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, HONG KONG AT 9 AM ON SATURDAY OR MR. CHEUNG SUNG-TAK AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET (NEXT TO KOWLOON CITY POLICE STATION) AT 9.30 AM ON THAT DAY.

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NO 'U' TURN ON WATERLOO ROAD

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TRAFFIC ON WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING U-TURN OUTSIDE THE YAU MA TEI FIRE STATION FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 27).

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC FLOW ON WATERLOO ROAD DURING ROAD REINSTATEMENT WORK THERE.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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