



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1978

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FIREMEN MORE VIGILANT

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THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS CARRIED OUT A RECORD 269,000 INSPECTIONS ON PREMISES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IN 1977, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 8.7 PER CENT OVER THE 1976 RECORD.

AT THE SAME TIME, MORE THAN 10,850 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES WERE ISSUED AND 3,400 PROSECUTIONS TAKEN OUT, RESULTING IN FINES AMOUNTING TO OVER \$1.3 MILLION BEING IMPOSED IN RESPECT OF VARIOUS CONTRAVENTIONS OF FIRE REGULATIONS.

COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTED FOR SOME 64 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL INSPECTIONS, WITH 142,745 RELATING TO MEANS OF ESCAPE AND 29,826 CONCERNING VARIOUS OTHER HAZARDS.

APART FROM INVESTIGATING THESE COMPLAINTS, STAFF OF THE BUREAU ALSO CARRIED OUT 15,157 REGULAR VISITS TO BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR COMMON CORRIDORS AND EXITS WERE FREE FROM OBSTRUCTIONS.

DURING THE YEAR, MORE THAN 46,370 INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES AND 6,555 INSPECTIONS OF VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY WERE UNDERTAKEN.

INSPECTIONS RELATED TO THE MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS TOTALLED 6,535.

THERE WERE ABOUT 17,400 VISITS RELATED TO RESTAURANTS, NIGHT CLUBS, SCHOOLS, FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, CINEMAS, MATSHEDS, DANCE HALLS, BILLIARD ROOMS, TIMBER YARDS AND NEON SIGNS.

IN ADDITION, 1,912 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE ON VEHICLES USED FOR CARRYING COMPRESSED GASES AND INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND 2,128 INSPECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT ON CHILD CARE CENTRES.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE BUREAU FINALISED 8,223 NEW BUILDING PLANS AND ISSUED OR RENEWED 3,513 DANGEROUS GOODS AND TIMBER YARDS STORAGE LICENCES.

FIRE OFFICERS ALSO INVESTIGATED 72 FIRES IN DEPTH AND CONDUCTED 182 LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS ON THE RUDIMENTS OF FIRE FIGHTING FOR STUDENTS AS WELL AS STAFF OF PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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OVER 15,000 MORE VEHICLES REGISTERED LAST YEAR

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES IN HONG KONG STOOD AT 207,521 AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 15,775 OR 8.22 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY, THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE RISE IN OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE CARS FROM 113,665 TO 122,858 AND IMPORTS OF GOODS VEHICLES FROM 36,553 TO 42,131.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED DRIVERS ALSO ROSE BY SIX PER CENT TO 555,715 AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF A CHANGE OF POLICY IN MARCH 1977, LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS DRIVING LICENCES WERE NOW ABLE TO OBTAIN HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCES WITHOUT A TEST.

LAST YEAR ALSO SAW A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FOR PRIVATE CAR AND MOTOR CYCLE DRIVING TESTS.

BY THE END OF 1977, THERE WERE 113,854 CANDIDATES WAITING FOR WRITTEN TESTS ON HIGHWAY CODES AND FOR ROAD TESTS ON THESE TWO CLASSES OF VEHICLE, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 43.9 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, A TOTAL OF 11,162 CANDIDATES WERE AWAITING TO TAKE THEIR DRIVING TESTS FOR LICENCES TO DRIVE TAXIS, PUBLIC (HIRE) CARS, GOODS VEHICLES, OMNIBUSES AND LIGHT BUSES.

DURING THE YEAR, THE INDOOR DRIVING TRAINING CENTRE RUN BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ~~PROVED TO BE POPULAR AS ALL~~ COURSES WERE FULLY BOOKED. MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AT THE CENTRE LAST YEAR, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 11,339 SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN JUNE 1974.

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FIRE WARNING TO FARMERS

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FARMERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE BEING INSTRUCTED ON THE CORRECT METHODS OF BURNING-OFF SCRUB AROUND THEIR CROPS DURING A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO CURB THE INCIDENCE OF BUSH FIRES.

DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, OFFICERS FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S AGRICULTURAL LIAISON UNITS AND COUNTRY PARKS MANAGEMENT CENTRES TOGETHER WITH CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAMS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE PERSONAL VISITS TO THE FARMERS, ADVISING THEM OF THE CORRECT METHODS OF BURNING-OFF.

THE FARMERS WILL BE GIVEN WALL POSTERS ILLUSTRATING THE DOS AND DON'TS OF LIGHTING FIRES AS WELL AS LISTS OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL AND COUNTRY PARKS UNITS IN EACH DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE FOLLOWED-UP WITH REGULAR RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TELEVISION COMMERCIALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY SPRING WAS THE SEASON WHEN FARMERS CLEARED AND BURNT-OFF SCRUB AROUND THEIR CROPS. THE PERIOD WAS CHOSEN AFTER THE DRY WINTERS AND BEFORE THE NORMALLY WET SUMMER MONTHS.

HE SAID THAT THE RECENT ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFALL HAS CURTAILED THE BURNING-OFF ACTIVITIES AND FARMERS WERE EXPECTED TO START CLEARING THE SCRUB AS SOON AS THE WEATHER CLEARED.

SO FAR THIS YEAR 80,000 TREES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN 519 BUSH FIRES OVER AN AREA OF 484 HECTARES. FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, 600,000 TREES WERE DESTROYED IN 888 FIRES OVER 1,326 HECTARES OF COUNTRYSIDE.

+THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN IS TO ADVISE FARMERS OF THE POSSIBLE DANGERS IN BURNING-OFF AS WELL AS INSTRUCTING THEM ON THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN LIGHTING FIRES.

+FARMERS ARE ADVISED THAT BEFORE BURNING-OFF, THEY SHOULD CALL AN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT UNIT NEAREST TO THEIR FARM SO THAT NECESSARY ACTION COULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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### NEW MECHANICAL REFUSE COLLECTOR

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL SOON PLACE AN ORDER FOR A SOPHISTICATED HARBOUR REFUSE COLLECTION CRAFT TO JOIN ITS POLLUTION CONTROL FLEET AT ABERDEEN THIS YEAR.

MR. MICHAEL SEALE, MARINE OFFICER, POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, SAID THAT THE CRAFT WAS THE LATEST EQUIPMENT IN USE IN MORE THAN 15 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND ~~COULD BE DELIVERED IN NOVEMBER.~~

THE DEVICE, MANUFACTURED IN BRITAIN AT A COST OF \$300,000, CAN SCOOP UP 10 TONS OF FLOATING RUBBISH PER HOUR, AND IT NEEDS ONLY ONE MAN TO OPERATE.

AT PRESENT, EACH HARBOUR SCAVENGING FLEET OF THREE CRAFT IN OPERATION HERE CAN ONLY COLLECT ONE TON OF REFUSE A DAY.

MR. SEALE SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ALSO HAD A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE HARBOUR SCAVENGING SERVICE. UNDER THE PROGRAMME FOUR MORE FLOATING MECHANICAL REFUSE COLLECTORS WILL BE ACQUIRED FOR USE AT YAU MA TEI, CAUSEWAY BAY, CHEUNG CHAU AND TUEN MUN NEW TOWN TYPHOON SHELTERS.

+WHEN THE NEW CRAFT ARE OPERATING BY 1982-83, COST OF SCAVENGING SERVICE WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN LOCAL WATERS MUCH IMPROVED,+ MR. SEALE SAID.

APART FROM THE DAILY ANTI-POLLUTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE HARBOUR, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDES SHIP-TO-SHIP REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR OCEAN-GOING SHIPS. NEARLY 50 VESSELS, CONSISTING OF MOTORISED CARGO BOATS AND SAMPANS, ARE EMPLOYED IN THIS OPERATION.

THE COST OF CLEANING UP THE HARBOUR IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR IS BUDGETTED AT \$2.5 MILLION COMPARED WITH \$1.47 MILLION IN 1976-77 FISCAL YEAR. IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, IT COST \$1.98 MILLION TO COLLECT MORE THAN 4,100 TONS OF FLOATING REFUSE.

MR. SEALE ESTIMATED THE COST OF THE CLEANING-UP AND DISPOSING OF THIS REFUSE RANGED FROM \$300 TO \$800 PER TON.

MR. SEALE SAID THE LARGE QUANTITY OF FLOATING REFUSE IN THE HARBOUR WAS MAINLY CAUSED BY REFUSE BEING WASHED OFF THE LAND INTO THE SEA THROUGH NULLAHS AND DRAINAGE OUTLETS, INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE FLOATING POPULATION AND PASSING VESSELS.

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6,000 NOTICES FAILED TO REACH VOTERS  
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THE REGISTRATION OFFICER IS APPEALING TO ALL URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION VOTERS WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE CURRENT REGISTER BUT WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED NOTICES OF SEXENNIAL INQUIRY TO CONTACT HIM.

MR. KUO KET-CHEN, REGISTRATION OFFICER FOR THE 1978 URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION REGISTRATION AND SEXENNIAL INQUIRY SAID, IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, HE HAD SENT OUT 37,174 NOTICES OF INQUIRY BUT OVER 6,000 COULD NOT BE DELIVERED BY THE POST OFFICE.

+THIS IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN TO INFORM US OF THEIR NEW ADDRESSES,+ MR. KUO SAID.

+I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THESE PEOPLE WOULD CONTACT THE ELECTORAL AND JURY SECTION, EITHER BY TELEPHONING THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE AT 5-765912 OR 5-704002 OR BY WRITING TO HIM AT SEVENTH FLOOR, KA CHEONG BUILDING, 4 SUNNING ROAD, HONG KONG SO THAT A NOTICE MAY BE SENT TO HIM WITHOUT DELAY,+ HE ADDED.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR RESIDENTIAL SITE AT FEI NGO SHAN  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE AT FEI NGO SHAN, CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, SAI KUNG.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOT WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,369 SQUARE METRES ARE LIMITED TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR (DISTRICTS) OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR. MALCOLM MCGRAW SAID: +THE SITE IS VERY ATTRACTIVE, BEING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BUT ALSO VERY CLOSE TO THE KOWLOON URBAN AREA.

+IT IS LOCATED IN A HIGH-CLASS RESIDENTIAL AREA AND ENJOYS VERY GOOD SEA VIEWS.+

THE LOT CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$510,000 OVER THREE YEARS. BUILDINGS TO BE ERECTED ON THE LOT WILL BASICALLY BE RESTRICTED TO TWO STOREYS.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON APRIL 7 THIS YEAR.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR \$10,000 MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE APPLICATION BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

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