



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 17, 1972

MR. LI FOOK-KOW TO BE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. Li Fook-kow, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, is to be appointed Director of Social Welfare.

He succeeds Mr. G.T. Rowe who is going on pre-retirement leave in November. Mr. Li, one of the most senior administrative officers in the Government, is at present Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, a post he has held for two years.

Mr. Li joined the civil service in 1954 and during his service he has held many important posts including those of Deputy Commissioner of Labour in 1960; Assistant Establishment Officer in 1963; Deputy Financial Secretary in 1967; Establishment Officer in 1968; Deputy Director of Commerce and Industry in 1970.

He attended the Administration Staff College, in 1963 and the Imperial Defence College in 1969.

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Note to Editors: Mr. Li will see the press, radio & TV in his office at the Secretariat for Home Affairs at noon tomorrow (Wednesday).

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MANPOWER SURVEY FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY

The Clothing Industrial Committee will be conducting a second manpower survey of the clothing industry next month.

The survey will be made with the assistance of the Labour Department. The committee is one of the 10 associated industrial committees of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee.

The survey aims at seeking such information as the number of workers at present employed, the number of workers now under training, the number of existing vacancies, and a forecast of the total number of workers required by November, 1973.

Because of the size of the industry, a random stratified sampling method has been adopted to select 620 factories to be covered in the survey.

The information collected will be handled in strict confidence and will be published only in the form of statistical summaries without reference to any individual factory.

Such information is vital to the work of the Clothing Industrial Committee, and if meaningful plans are to be drawn up to meet the training needs of the industry, employers whose factories have been selected for the survey are requested to provide accurate answers to the questionnaires sent to them.

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Together with the questionnaire forms, explanatory letters in English and Chinese were also sent to selected factories.

If an employer has any queries after receiving the questionnaire, he is requested to contact the Labour Statistics and Surveys Unit of the Labour Department by telephoning 5-778271, Ext. 3 or 4.

During the period of the survey, an interviewing officer of the department will call at each of these factories on a date to be arranged previously by appointment.

He will, if required, answer queries, assist in the completion of the questionnaire, and will collect one copy for processing.

It is hoped that employers in the clothing industry will co-operate in this survey and thus assure success equal to, if not better than, the first manpower survey.

The first survey was conducted from March 20 to March 31, 1969, in which 97 per cent of the factories covered in the survey willingly supplied the information required.

The Clothing Industrial Committee has subsequently analysed and compiled the statistical information obtained, and published its findings and recommendations in a manpower survey report. Some of the recommendations have already been implemented.

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At the time of the first survey, statistics showed that in March 1969, the total manual labour force was 116,040 and the total number of registered and recorded factories was 2,170.

In June, 1972, however, the corresponding figures had risen to 148,512 and 4,193 respectively. In view of these changes, it has been decided to conduct a second manpower survey to up-date the data on training requirements and to make new recommendations, where necessary, to the Government and industry in the light of new statistical information.

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DANGEROUS BUILDING ON HONG KONG ISLAND

The Building Authority today declared No. 2 Pound Lane on Hong Kong Island to be in a dangerous condition and ordered demolition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that in the course of routine inspections it was found that the structural timbers of the floors and roof of the three storey pre-war building were extensively decayed. There were also fractures in the brickwork of the front main wall.

Because it is considered that the building could collapse, notice of intention to apply for a closure order in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on November 29 was posted today.

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SHEK KIP MEI REHOUSING SCHEME

Response from tenants involved in the first phase of the Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Scheme has continued to be favourable.

The Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Operation Unit, which was kept open during the long weekend, received a total of 395 applications for flats in Pak Tin Estate over this period.

This brings the running total to 1,398 and represents more than two-thirds of the total number of applications which the Resettlement Department sent out to householders of domestic flats in Shek Kip Mei Resettlement Estate.

The Enquiry Centre of the estate has also been well used.

During the past two days the centre dealt with 220 enquiries from domestic tenants and about 40 from shopkeepers, workshop owners and others.

The Housing Authority is expected to carry out its first interviews with applicants for flats in Pak Tin within the next two days.

The first tenancy is expected to be offered shortly.

Commenting on a newspaper report that several tenants have raised some points of doubt and worries about their own situation, a spokesman for the Resettlement Department said that his department and the Government as a whole were most willing to help them solve their problems.

"They should state their difficulties in the application form which will be carefully studied," he said.

"Assistance in one form or another will be given to those in need by the Social Welfare Department, the Labour Department, the Education Department as well as other government departments."

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RENEWAL OF CROWN LEASES

A comprehensive statement of the terms of renewal for renewable Crown leases was issued by the Government today.

A Government spokesman said that the statement explains the application of the various modifications to the policy which were announced in the Legislative Council by the Colonial Secretary on May 24 this year.

Copies of the statement are available at City District Offices, Government Information Counters and have been sent to firms of solicitors and can also be obtained from the Crown Lands and Survey Office.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHANGES

Mr. LEE Quo-wei, an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, ceased to be temporary Unofficial Member of the Executive Council, with effect from October 14, 1972, on the return to Hong Kong of Sir Yuet-keung KAN.

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JOBS FOUND FOR 21 DISABLED PEOPLE DURING SEPTEMBER

Twenty-one disabled people were assisted by the Social Welfare Department's Liaison and Placement Unit into commercially-competitive jobs during September.

The group included 10 physically handicapped and two slightly mentally retarded people.

They were accepted into "open" industry -- as opposed to sheltered workshops -- as unskilled and semi-skilled workers, watchmen, packers, lift operators, and assemblers.

One industrial organisation, Cosmos International Garment Manufacturing Limited, employed six of the disabled people.

The Lever Shirt Garment Weaving Factory took on a group of five, as sewing machine operators and the Urban Services Department took on a young man as a labourer for the Central Market.

Mr. Chan Shiu-wing, acting Officer-in-charge of the Unit, today urged enlightened employers in Hong Kong to follow the example in England where the tendency is to engage disabled for operating lifts and looking after car parks.

He hopes the hotel industry will consider reserving such posts for these disabled in the future, and he commends the YMCA International House for engaging a crippled young man last month to operate a lift in the building.

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SEPTEMBER'S WEATHER

September 1972 was warmer than usual. The mean maximum temperature of 31.0°C was the sixth highest on record for the month.

The atmospheric pressure was higher than normal during most of the month and the mean monthly value of 1011.3 mb was the highest on record for September.

On the first three days of the month a ridge of high pressure from the Pacific anticyclone covered the south China coast and the weather was fine apart from a few isolated showers.

From September 4 onwards, an anti-cyclone dominated China and mainly fine and sunny weather persisted in Hong Kong during the next two weeks.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms developed on September 19 when an upper-air disturbance affected Hong Kong. The weather became fine on the following two days, but occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms occurred again on the 22nd.

On September 24, a cold front moved southwards across the south China coast causing periods of heavy rain and thunderstorms. The weather became cooler during the following two days and the minimum temperature of the month, 22.8°C, was recorded on the 25th.

On the evening of September 28, a trough of low pressure passed through the south China coast, bringing scattered thunderstorms. Some showers were also experienced on the 29th. The weather, however, improved with some sunny intervals on the last day of the month.

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During September, six tropical cyclones were reported over the western Pacific and South China Sea but none affected Hong Kong.

Severe Tropical Storms Elsie and Flossie passed to the south of Hong Kong on a westerly course and crossed the coast of Vietnam near Danang. They weakened into low pressure areas over land but intensified into tropical storms again after they moved into the Bay of Bengal.

There were no aircraft diversions and no strong monsoon signal was hoisted during the month.

Three thunderstorm warnings and one thunderstorm and heavy rain warning were issued.

The month's figures and departures from normal were:

Sunshine	202.2 hours;	4.7 hours above normal
Rainfall	239.7 mm	; 39.1 mm below normal
Cloudiness	57 %	; 4% below normal
Relative Humidity	80 %	; 1% above normal
Mean Maximum Temperature	31.0°C	; 1.2°C above normal
Mean Temperature	27.7°C	; 0.6°C above normal
Mean Minimum Temperature	25.7°C	; 0.8°C above normal
Mean Dew Point	23.9°C	; 0.8°C above normal
Total Evaporation	156.6 mm	; 15.0 mm below normal

Maximum Temperature of 33.4°C was recorded on September 14.

Minimum Temperature of 22.8°C was recorded on September 25.

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ACCIDENT PREVENTION ON SHIPS

The Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, has spoken about the importance of accident prevention on board ships.

Addressing the passing-out ceremony of the World-Wide Sea Training School at the City Hall today, he said: "Accidents do not occur. They are caused either by failure of machinery or by temporary carelessness, or a deviation from established practices and procedures."

During the past two years, he said, there were 448 accidents involving Hong Kong seamen and the payment of workmen's compensation amounting to over \$4 million.

Mr. Price said that few people knew that the Labour Department participated actively in a number of committees dealing with the recruiting, training and conditions of employment of Hong Kong seamen.

He noted that the World-Wide Sea Training School, established in 1966, had five training courses of varying duration for stewards, engine-room staff, junior staff, deck apprentices and officer cadets.

He was pleased to observe that the course syllabuses gave much importance to accident prevention, fire precautions and instruction on safety matters.

During the ceremony, some 70 cadets who had successfully completed their training in seamanship, basic navigation and engineering received their certificates.

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Release time: 7:00 p.m.