



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, August 14, 1973

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H.K. TO PRESS FOR FAIR DEAL ON TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR

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The Hong Kong Government will continue to press for the removal of the discrimination against Hong Kong's textiles and footwear exports to the enlarged European Economic Community.

This assurance was given today by a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department in connection with a petition sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by local trade and industrial associations.

Referring to the petition, which was forwarded through the Acting Governor, the spokesman said: "It clearly shows the concern which is being felt over the erosion of Hong Kong's competitive position in the enlarged EEC as far as textiles and footwear are concerned."

He said it was too early to forecast what decision might be taken on the issue raised in the petition, but he emphasised that the Hong Kong Government would continue to press for the discrimination against Hong Kong to be lifted.

The United Kingdom, he noted, was the second largest market for Hong Kong textiles, with last year's exports amounting to \$1,457 million.

The United Kingdom was the largest market for Hong Kong footwear, he added, and last year exports were valued at \$121 million.

The value of exports of textiles and footwear to the nine EEC countries was \$2,970 million and \$183 million respectively.

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#### MAJOR KOWLOON ROAD PROJECT GOES AHEAD

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Work will start shortly on three more projects of the \$140 million Kowloon Foothills Corridor scheme which will provide a fast direct route between the industrial centres of Kwun Tong in the east and Kwai Chung in the west.

Tenders are at present being called for one of these -- the construction of Ching Cheung Road extension.

This new road will run from the west end of Lai Chi Kok Bay bridge around Lai Chi Kok to join the existing interchange at the junction of Castle Peak Road and Ching Cheung Road.

Tenders have already been received for the other two projects which involve the construction of Fung Mo Street bridge over Lung Cheung Road, and the construction of Nam Cheong Interchange at the junction of Lung Cheung Road and Nam Cheong Street.

The present route formed by Lung Cheung Road, Tai Po Road and Ching Cheung Road, is also being generally widened to a two-lane dual carriageway.

At the same time, all major intersections along this route are being improved by the construction of interchanges with linked pedestrian facilities.

/Work on .....

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Work on the 11 projects on this route started towards the end of 1971 with the Lion Rock Interchange which is now nearing completion.

Since then, a further six projects have begun and sections of the new road have already been opened to the public.

Traffic flow is expected to improve in the coming months with the opening of the Lion Rock Interchange and additional carriageways of Lung Cheung Road and Ching Cheung Road.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a sketch plan of the road improvement scheme are boxed for collection this evening.

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URBCO ENGAGES PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT

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The Urban Council has appointed a consultant company to advise on certain aspects of the council's public relations programmes and to carry out and supervise some publicity projects for the council.

Mr. A. de O. Sales, chairman of the council, said to-day that the public relations policy of the council would remain firmly in the council's own hands. "We have not hired someone to tell us what to do", said Mr. de Sales. "We know what we want to do. We have sought advice on how to do it more effectively".

"The council's public relations objectives are to increase public understanding of the work of the council and councillors in the various fields of the public service for which they are responsible. This means a full programme of information on the day-to-day work of the council and its committees, and of the Urban Services Department which is the council's executive arm.

"The council and the department are responsible for action in many areas which affect the quality of life for nearly everyone in Hong Kong. These activities must be understood and appreciated by the public as much as possible. This is particularly important in view of the council's new status," Mr. de Sales said.

The contract for public relations consultancy services has been awarded to Michael Stevenson Ltd.

/The council .....

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The council and the Urban Services Department emphasise that the role of the consultant company is to advise and to perform certain technical functions. The official contacts of the council and the department will still be conducted through the information officers seconded from the Government Information Services Department and where appropriate and required, by direct interview with councillors and department officials.

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#### BUILDING IN CENTRAL DECLARED DANGEROUS

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A three-storey pre-war building at No. 7 Chancery Lane in Central was today declared to be in a dangerous condition by the Building Authority.

The building has a four-storey kitchen block which was inspected at the request of a member of the public.

Fractured and crushing brickwork was found in several places in the ground floor of the kitchen block. In addition, bulged and fractured brickwork was observed in the upper walls of the kitchen block and to the rear wall of the main building. Further fractures were also observed internally.

Notices of intention to apply for a closure order were posted on the building today. Hearing will be in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 11.

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#### INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING

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Some 120 safety training courses are being offered by the Labour Department in an effort to reduce the number of industrial deaths and injuries.

The courses, which began last month, aim at encouraging both employers and workers to take up various working safety measures.

A spokesman for the Industrial Undertakings Unit of the Labour Department said that last year 121 industrial workers were killed and about 19,000 accidents involving bodily injuries were reported.

He urged managements of industrial undertakings to pay more attention to their legal responsibility towards industrial safety within their working places.

By the end of June this year, about 2,400 people attended various courses conducted by the Unit, but more assistance from the management level is needed in order to promote industrial safety.

"Top management involvement is essential if any accident prevention programme is to succeed," the spokesman stressed.

The courses are mainly conducted in Cantonese and supplemented by short films and practical demonstrations.

Subjects vary from 'working in confined spaces' to 'basic accident prevention', and may last from one day to six weeks.

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Advanced courses are mainly designed for the level of foreman upwards, while the basic courses are for general workers so as to suit the need of different participants.

The Industrial Safety Training Centre located at Canton Road Government Offices comprises four lecture rooms, each of which can accommodate up to 30 people.

There is also a show room displaying a wide range of adequately guarded machinery and a comprehensive selection of personal protective equipment.

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EXPORT RESTRAINT ON COTTON DENIMS TO AUSTRALIA LIFTED

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The Director of Commerce and Industry announced today that the restraint on exports to Australia of certain cotton denims has been lifted with immediate effect.

The lift followed recent consultations between the Australian and Hong Kong governments.

The restraint, imposed last September, involved cotton denims, grey and other than grey, of six to 15 ounces by weight per square yard.

"Exports of such denims from Hong Kong to Australia will from now on be subject to an export authorisation scheme," Mr. Ho said.

Details of the export authorisation scheme are set out in Notice to Exporters: Series 5 (Misc.) (Australia) No.4/73 issued today.

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H.K. BARRISTER APPOINTED QUEEN'S COUNSEL

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Mr. Archibald Zimmern, a prominent Hong Kong barrister, has been appointed a Queen's Counsel.

Mr. Zimmern was born in Hong Kong and was educated at the ~~Dioesan~~ Dioesan Boys' School, Kowloon. He was called to the English Bar by the Inner Temple in November, 1958 and was admitted as a barrister in Hong Kong in January 1959. He has practised here ever since.

Mr. Zimmern has sat as a Commissioner of the Supreme Court on more than one occasion.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.