



SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1975.

# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

KAI TAK BIRD STUDY

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS RECRUITED AN ORNITHOLOGIST TO CARRY OUT A STUDY ON THE BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS AND FEEDING HABITS OF CERTAIN LOCAL BIRDS WHICH ARE AN ACTUAL OR A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO AIRCRAFT USING KAI TAK AIRPORT.

THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-YEAR STUDY, WHICH BEGAN EARLY LAST YEAR, IS PART OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BIRDSTRIKES ON AIRCRAFT AND THE ATTENDANT DANGER TO AIRLINERS AND THEIR PASSENGERS.

MR. DAVID MELVILLE, THE ORNITHOLOGIST, WAS RECRUITED LAST YEAR FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHERE HE HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL BIRDSTRIKE HAZARD AT THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED THIRD LONDON AIRPORT.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG LAST FEBRUARY HE HAS BEEN MAKING REGULAR VISITS TO THE AIRPORT AS WELL AS THE OUTLYING ISLANDS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES TO ASSESS THE NUMBER OF BIRDS PRESENT.

MR. MELVILLE SAID THAT WHILE MANY SPECIES OF BIRDS MAY BE A HAZARD TO AIRCRAFT, THE HONG KONG STUDY IS CONCENTRATED ON BLACK-EARED KITES, SHORE BIRDS AND SEAGULLS SINCE THESE PRESENT THE MAIN HAZARD TO AIRCRAFT.

SINCE MANY BIRDWATCHERS HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN COMMON BIRDS, HE SAID, THERE IS LITTLE BACKGROUND MATERIAL AVAILABLE AND SO THE STUDY HAS HAD TO START FROM THE BEGINNING. DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE STUDY THE MAIN OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO COLLECT DATA.

WHILE THERE MAY ONLY BE ONE OR TWO HUNDRED KITES IN HONG KONG DURING THE SUMMER, THERE ARE ABOUT 1,000 PRESENT IN THE WINTER. KITES ARE MIGRATORY AND THOSE WHICH SPEND THE WINTER IN HONG KONG PROBABLY COME FROM CHINA.

MOST KITES ROOST AROUND THE PEAK AND ON STONE-CUTTERS' ISLAND. KITES ARE MAINLY SCAVENGING BIRDS AND FEED ON SUCH ITEMS AS DEAD RATS, FISH AND SMALL BIRDS.

SEAGULLS ARE USUALLY PRESENT IN HONG KONG BETWEEN OCTOBER AND THE END OF MARCH. MANY OF THE GULLS, THE MOST NUMEROUS OF WHICH IS THE BLACK-HEADED GULL, SPEND THE DAY IN THE HARBOUR AREA FEEDING ON SMALL FISH AND REFUSE. THEY ROOST ON THE SEA TO THE SOUTH OF LAMMA ISLAND AND RECENTLY 6,500 GULLS WERE COUNTED FLYING TO ROOST THERE.

A WIDE VARIETY OF SHORE BIRDS HAVE BEEN SEEN AT THE AIRPORT BUT USUALLY ONLY SMALL NUMBERS ARE PRESENT AT ANY ONE TIME. MOST OF THE BIRDS APPEAR DURING THE SPRING AND AUTUMN MIGRATION SEASONS.

/COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS .....

COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS ARE BEING COMPILED ON BIRDSTRIKE INCIDENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, 22 COLLISIONS BETWEEN BIRDS AND AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF KAI TAK IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. IN TWO OF THESE CASES, THE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED HAD TO UNDERGO REPAIR. DURING THE SAME PERIOD EIGHT FLIGHTS WERE DELAYED BY CONCENTRATIONS OF BIRDS AROUND THE RUNWAY.

MOREOVER, 86 DEAD BIRDS WERE PICKED UP FROM THE RUNWAY AND EXAMINED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT DURING 1974.

WHILE THE STUDY IS UNDERWAY, SEVERAL SHORT-TERM MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO CONTROL BIRD NUMBERS AT THE AIRPORT. THESE INCLUDE A SPECIAL BIRD PATROL SUPPLIED BY THE AIRPORT FIRE SERVICE WHOSE AIM IS TO DISCOURAGE BIRDS FROM FREQUENTING THE RUNWAY. WHEN BIRDS ARE SIGHTED ON OR NEAR THE RUNWAY THE BIRD PATROL ATTEMPTS TO SCARE THEM AWAY USING A SHORTGUN.

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS THE BIRD PATROL HAS TAKEN ACTION TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS AWAY ON 79 OCCASIONS.

A NUMBER OF GULLS FREQUENT THE METAL BOOM WHICH STANDS AT THE SOUTH-EAST END OF THE RUNWAY PROMONTORY. MR. MELVILLE HAS PROPOSED THAT WIRES BE PLACED ALONG THE TOP OF THE BOOM TO PREVENT THE BIRDS FROM LANDING.

AFTER ONLY ONE YEAR OF THE STUDY, MR. MELVILLE WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM MEASURES SINCE BIRD NUMBERS AND BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT DUE TO FACTORS SUCH AS CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS.

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#### TENDERS CALLED FOR OI MAN ESTATE SHOPS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE TENANCIES FOR SEVEN SHOP PREMISES AT OI MAN ESTATE.

THESE SHOP SPACES, LOCATED NEAR THE MARKET AREA, WILL BE THE LAST AVAILABLE AT THE ESTATE APART FROM THOSE AT ITS COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

THE RENT OF TWO SHOPS AT CHUNG MAN HOUSE EACH MEASURING 1,227 SQ.FT., INCLUSIVE OF AN ATTACHED DOMESTIC UNIT OF 357 SQ.FT., HAS BEEN FIXED AT \$3,400 PER MONTH.

THE RENT FOR THE OTHER FIVE SHOPS AT HONG MAN HOUSE EACH WITH A FLOOR AREA OF 617 SQ.FT. AND AN ATTACHED DOMESTIC UNIT OF 591 SQ.FT. HAS BEEN SET AT \$2,950 PER MONTH.

ALL SHOPS HAVE BEEN FIXED FOR DESIGNATED TRADES, INCLUDING RICE AND GROCERY, DRUGS AND COSMETICS AND HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS.

TENDERERS MUST STATE THE AMOUNT OF PREMIUM THEY ARE PREPARED TO OFFER FOR A THREE-YEAR TENANCY OF THE SHOPS.

CLOSING OF TENDERS WILL BE AT NOON ON THE 21ST OF THIS MONTH.

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