HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

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Saturday, November 10, 1973

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Saturday, November 10, 1973

TWO SPECIAL COMMITTEES BEING SET UP TO DEAL WITH OIL PROBLEMS

Director Of Oil Supplies Appointed

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Two special committees are being established and a Director of Oil Supplies has been appointed to deal with problems which may result from any shortage of oil and petroleum products in Hong Kong.

Announcing this today a government spokesman said that these committees would include senior government officers and representatives of oil companies.

He stressed that there was no shortage of oil in Hong Kong at the moment. Stocks were normal and, as yet, there had been no interruption of deliveries.

An Oil Policy Committee has been established at a high level in Government and is headed by the Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. Michael Clinton. Members include the Secretaries for Environment and Security and the Deputy Economic Secretary, the Director of Commerce and Industry, and representatives of oil companies in Hong Kong. The Oil Policy Committee will decide on essentail priorities and will meet as required.

Mr. R. Porter, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, has been appointed Director of Oil Supplies and will be a member of the Oil Policy Committee. He will be Chairman of the Oil Distribution Committee which is charged initially with preparing plans for the introduction of such controls as may become necessary. This committee will be served by a full time staff of Government officers.

/"I emphasise .....

"I emphasise once again," the spokesman said, "that there is no shortage of oil at present and it is not in the interests of the community for people to hoard stocks or for dealers to hold back supplies in the hope of a price rise."

He reiterated that the temporary storage of inflammable items in cans and containers not specially designed for the purpose constituted a serious fire risk. "This could easily result in serious fires and endanger not only the hoarders themselves but also the lives and property of their neighbours."

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph and biographical details of Mr. Roy Porter will be distributed in the Press boxes later this afternoon.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises in Central District will be turned off for eight hours starting from 10 p.m. on Monday (November 12).

The temporary stoppage is to enable Waterworks Office staff to connect fresh water mains at Wyndham Street near Arbuthnot Road.

The premises affected are No. 30-56 and No. 31-79 Wyndham Street; No. 1 Lower Albert Road, including St. Paul's College; and No. 2 Lower Albert Road, including the Dairy Farm depot.

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BRITAIN TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

AGAINST HONG KONG IN E.E.C.

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Discrimination against Hong Kong's textile and footwear exports in the European Economic Community's generalised scheme of preferences is "no longer acceptable," Mr. Anthony Royle, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has told the House of Commons.

He said the British Government intends to "press resolutely" for the inclusion of Hong Kong's textiles and footwear in the scheme from 1975 onwards.

Mr. Royle was replying to a question from Mr. Peter Hordern, M.P., who asked what action was being taken to remedy exclusion of Hong Kong's textile and footwear exports, in view of the United Kingdom's obligation to align with the E.E.C.'s generalised system of preferences on January 1 next year.

The full text of Mr. Royle's reply, which was received by the Hong Kong Government today, is as follows:

"At a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the E.E.C. on November 6, my Right Honourable Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Davies, British Minister for European Affairs), made a strong statement on the position of Hong Kong.

"He said that during the enlargement negotiations in 1971 the Community had agreed to admit Hong Kong to its generalised system of preferences, subject to the exclusion of her textile and footwear exports.

/"Our chief .....

"Our chief negotiator at the time had agreed to this arrangement but he had made it clear to the Community that it would be the United Kingdom's continuing concern to avoid discrimination against Hong Kong.

"The arrangements agreed by our partners in 1971 may have seemed to them not ungenerous. But an important consideration now was that since 1971 the situation had changed to the detriment of Hong Kong and that the Philippines, Thailand and Yugoslavia, all of them serious competitors of Hong Kong, had become beneficiaries under the Community's scheme in respect of cotton textiles.

"We had examined this matter carefully and had concluded that in present circumstances it was no longer acceptable for discrimination to apply against Hong Kong.

"As this aspect of the scheme will remain unchanged for 1974, my Right Honourable Friend has put his colleagues on notice that in the context of next year's review we intend to press resolutely for the inclusion of Hong Kong's textiles and footwear in the scheme from 1975 onwards."

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NUMBER OF H.K. INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

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The number of Industrial Undertakings in Hong Kong stood at 21,610 at the end of September, according to a survey just completed by the Census and Statistics Department.

The survey shows an increase of 656 factories over the number at the same time last year, but is 498 lower than the figure for the June quarter this year.

Employment in industry stood at 619,237 - an increase of 2,513 over the September quarter last year and a drop of 5,850 on the June quarter.

Industrialists reported a total of 9,269 job vacancies - equivalent to 1.5 per cent of employment in industry. The main vacancies were in electronics (2,443), the garment industry (2,432), the plastics industry (711) and the metal products industry (535).

There was increased employment in a number of industries, including cotton spinning and weaving - where employment went up by 2,020 - and the electronics industry - up by 1,444.

There were drops in the workforce of the woollen knitting industry (3,493), the plastics industry (3,646) and the wig-making industry (2,461).

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NEW QUARRY IN KOWLOON TO BE DEVELOPED SOON

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Tenders will soon be invited for the development of a new quarry at Anderson Road north of Sau Mau Ping in Kowloon.

The new contract will emphasise that the quarry must be worked by modern methods of quarrying to ensure efficient production and safe working condition.

Provision will also be made for the successful contractor to continue working until the available reserves of stone are removed within the designated area.

The contractor must also be responsible for landscaping the area when the extraction of stone is completed.

The whole operation is expected to take 10 years, although this period may be reduced if there is a large increase in the demand for quarry products.

The area that it is proposed to quarry lies north of Anderson Road and will adjoin the existing quarries in the district.

The proposed area incorporates several other quarry sites only one of which is now being worked. The quarry area has been designed and the works will be supervised by the Quarries section of the Civil Engineering Office, Public Works Department.

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LAM TSUEN CHILDREN FRIENDSHIP DAY

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The Ngau Tau Kok Estate Community Work Office and Library and Rural Mobile Services Unit of the Social Welfare Department will hold a Children's Friendship Day on Monday (November 12) at Lam Tsuen in Tai Po district.

This is one of their children and youth service programmes organized to entertain about 100 children aged from 10 to 12 from Lam Tsuen area.

The programme will consist of competitive games and will be run by members of the Youth Services Team and a self-programming group of the Ngau Tau Kok Estate Community Work Office.

"This project is to give urban youth an opportunity to gain self-satisfaction by providing voluntary service to village children to enable them to get to know children from a rural social background and to learn to organize joint projects co-operatively," said Mr. Wong Pak-chuen, Officer-in-charge of the Library and Rural Mobile Services Unit.

"It will also provide the children of Lam Tsuen with a day's fun and a chance to make new friends," he said.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.