DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, October 8, 1973

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Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

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TOP PRIORITY GIVEN TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today expressed particular concern about the welfare and safety of workers and said industrial safety was "at the very top" of his priority list.

"I have now in the pipeline various safety regulations," he said. "These include such matters as cargo handling, lifting gear and appliances, amendments to the existing quarry safety regulations and cartridge-operated tools."

He emphasised that he was anxious to pass on with the making of these regulations as soon as possible.

Mr. Price made the remarks during an hour long visit to the Swiss Plating Corporations Ltd. in Kwun Tong to see at first hand the general working conditions in a plating factory and the effects of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Electrolytic Chromium Process) Regulations 1972. The regulations provide for the protection of the health of those engaged in chromium plating.

The visit, the second of its kind, enabled the Commissioner to meet management and workers on the factory floor. He was shown in detail the measures adopted by the management to minimise the potential hazards associated with plating processes.

The main work room of the factory is air-conditioned and workers engaged in the plating process are required to wear protective clothing. All degreasing and plating tanks are provided with efficient exhaust systems. The factory is currently engaged in gold, copper and nickel plating.

/Mr. Price .....

Mr. Price said that although chromium plating in the factory was only at an experimental stage, the management had already implemented the necessary safety measures as required by the Electrolytic Chromium Process Regulations.

"This is what I call good management," he said.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises and hotels in Causeway Bay will be interrupted for eight hours starting from 10 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) to enable a water mains connection to be made at Sugar Street.

All premises in Sugar Street will be affected, as well as the Roxy Theatre, Plaza Hotel,Alba Hotel and St. Francis Hotel. The temporary stoppage will also affect Nos. 9 to 31 Yee Woo Street; Victoria Park; Nos. 51 - 63 and Nos. 42 - 72 Paterson Street; Nos. 1 - 15 and Nos. 6 - 8 Cleveland Street; Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 11 Kingston Street, including Kingston Building; Marco Polo Mansion; and Victoria Park Mansion.

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CHANGE IN EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES "USEFUL"

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The Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Facilitation Committee, Mr. I.R. Tomlin, today described the decision by the Commerce and Industry Department to simplify certain trade procedures as "a most useful improvement."

He was referring to a recent announcement by the Department that, with effect from November 1, exporters would no longer have to indicate the name of the carrier and the date of departure in applications for export licences before the licences were approved.

The decision on the change was made after the matter was referred to the Textile Advisory Board and Trade Facilitation Committee.

Mr. Tomlin said: "The change will eliminate the problems associated with the present system for amendments which is complicated and time-consuming."

He added that the TFC always welcomed constructive suggestions for the improvement and simplification of trade procedures and documents, and he invited businessmen to put their ideas forward.

This, he said, could be done through their trade associations or by contacting Mr. Henry Lau, Secretary of the TFC, at telephone No. 5-450965.

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NEW HOME FOR UNDER-PRIVILEGED BOYS

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Young boys confronted with minor behaviour problems will be better catered for when the Chak Yan Centre in Shamshuipo opens early next year.

The four-storey complex -- the second boys' centre set up in Shamshuipo by the Society of Boys' Centres -- is being built under a substantial grant of about $2 million from the Lotteries Fund. The 49,000-square-foot site on which the centre is built was granted by the government.

The Society itself has raised $490,000 towards meeting the cost of the project.

Located in Cornwall Street, the centre is intended as a home for boys from eight to 16 years of age who exhibit minor behaviour problems and are deprived of normal parental supervision, or who are otherwise in need of protection and care.

It is envisaged that the centre will provide hostel accommodation for 160 boys.

Facilities in the centre will comprise, among others, a gymnasium/assembly hall, a playground, four classrooms, five pre-vocational training workshops, a library and a music room.

/There will .....

There will be eight family units in the centre, each housing 20 boys. Every unit will be provided with a day-room which will serve as a place for rest, recreation and study. Provided in each family unit will be two bedrooms, a small pantry and bathroom.

Basic pre-vocational training together with formal educational instruction will be provided in the centre.

Pre-vocational training will comprise carpentry, basic repair skill in air-conditioning and simple electrical appliances, as well as metal work and sewing. Classes in both pre-vocational training and formal education will be operated on a bisessional basis to enable the boys to attend both on the same day.

Outlining the future functions of the centre, a spokesman for the Society of Boys' Centres said it would provide a home for under-privileged boys as well as serve as a place where they could experience communal life while at work and at play.

"They will also be able to pick up a simple trade as well as general civic responsibilities," the spokesman added. Particular emphasis would be accorded to physical training, moral training and character moulding.

The spokesman described the setting up of the centre as "a positive contribution" to the caring for under-privileged boys with minor behaviour problems.

Construction of the Chak Yan Centre, which commenced in January this year, is in an advanced stage and should be completed early next year.

At present, the Society runs two boys' centres in Kowloon. The Shing Tak Street Centre in To Kwa Wan provides home for 140 boys from destitute families and others with behaviour problems, while the Un Chau Street Centre in Shamshuipo caters for some 40 under-privileged boys who attend regular schools outside and return to the hostel after school.

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REGISTRATION FACILITIES AT FANLING

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A team from the Registration of Persons Department will be operating for three days in the Fanling Rural Committee as from Wednesday (October 10).

Business hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The visits will enable parents or guardians to register their children from six to 17 years of age for juvenile identity cards, and persons of 17 years and over to register for adult identity cards.

Children between six and 17 years of age who have Hong Kong birth certificates or valid travel documents need not attend for registration, but children who do not have such documents must accompany their parents or guardian when registering.

Residents are also reminded to report any changes in their registered particulars.

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BLUE POOL ROAD RE-OPENED

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The section of Blue Pool Road below its junction with Tai Hang Road was re-opened to traffic at 10 a.m. today (Monday).

This section, about 350 feet in length, was closed on September 28 to enable emergency repair works to be carried out.

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.