



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1975

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO REPORT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS EARLY
 STREAMLINED REPORTING PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE TOMORROW
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID TODAY HE WAS CONCERNED BY THE TARDINESS OF SOME EMPLOYERS IN REPORTING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THEIR STAFF.

HE REVEALED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY DEALT WITH 20 LATE REPORTING CASES RECENTLY - INCLUDING ONE REPORT FILED 227 DAYS AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

MR. PRICE SAID THERE WAS NO REAL EXCUSE FOR SUCH LATE REPORTS - AND THERE WOULD BE EVEN LESS FROM TOMORROW (APRIL 1) WHEN A STREAMLINED REPORTING PROCEDURE COMES INTO EFFECT.

THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE IS COVERED BY THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1975 WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JANUARY.

THE OLD SYSTEM REQUIRED TWO SEPARATE WRITTEN REPORTS OF AN ACCIDENT TO BE MADE TO TWO UNITS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT UNDER TWO DIFFERENT ORDINANCES.

UNDER THE STANDARDISED PROCEDURES OF THE NEW REGULATIONS, AN EMPLOYER WOULD ONLY NEED TO MAKE A WRITTEN OR ORAL REPORT TO A FACTORY INSPECTOR WITHIN 24 HOURS OF AN ACCIDENT.

MR. PRICE SAID AN ORAL REPORT MUST BE FOLLOWED BY A WRITTEN REPORT UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE ACCIDENT.

FATAL WORK ACCIDENTS MUST ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE WITHIN 24 HOURS, AS PREVIOUSLY.

MR. PRICE SAID HE WAS GREATLY PERTURBED BY THE RECENT CASES HE HAD ENCOUNTERED OF LATE REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK.

✦ I PERSONALLY WROTE TO THE COMPANIES INVOLVED DRAWING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE DELAYS AND ASKING THEM TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES OF THEM. THEY HAVE ALL REPLIED, AND IN MOST CASES INADEQUATE SUPERVISION WAS THE MAIN REASON OR WORKERS HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE THEIR EMPLOYERS WITH DETAILS OF THEIR MEDICAL TREATMENT, ✦ HE SAID.

✦ DELAY IN REPORTING WORK ACCIDENTS AFFECTS THE PROMPT INVESTIGATION OF SUCH ACCIDENTS WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING FURTHER OCCURRENCES, AND UNNECESSARILY DELAYS THE PROMPT PROCESSING OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION. ✦

MR. PRICE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD SOON ISSUE A PUBLISHED GUIDE TO INFORM FACTORY EMPLOYERS AND OTHER PROPRIETORS OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS.

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WARNING ON POSSIBLE OUTBREAK OF MEASLES EPIDEMIC
ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN IN APRIL

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA, WARNS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OUTBREAK OF MEASLES EPIDEMIC LATER THIS YEAR OR IN EARLY 1976.

HOWEVER, HE SAYS THIS CAN EASILY BE AVOIDED IF PARENTS WOULD BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO A GOVERNMENT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE, AN OUT-PATIENT CLINIC OR AN INOCULATION POST FOR VACCINATION.

DR. CHOA MADE HIS APPEAL TODAY AS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS ABOUT TO LAUNCH AN INTENSIFIED ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN IN APRIL AND MAY.

THE DIRECTOR EXPLAINED THAT MEASLES IS A HIGHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE AFFECTING MOSTLY CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

ALTHOUGH IT IS SELDOM FATAL, THE COMPLICATIONS OF THE INFECTION, SUCH AS BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA OR ENCEPHALITIS, OFTEN LEAD TO DEATH.

THIS DISEASE, DR. CHOA SAID, DISPLAYED A DISTINCT BIENNIAL PATTERN, OCCURRING IN AN EPIDEMIC FORM EVERY ALTERNATE WINTER/SPRING.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MASS VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES SINCE 1967, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DECREASE IN MEASLES INCIDENCE.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF DEATHS CAUSED BY MEASLES WAS RECORDED IN 1967 WHEN 654 CHILDREN FELL VICTIMS TO THE DISEASE.

THE DEATH TOLL DROPPED TO FOUR IN 1971, BUT LAST YEAR IT ROSE AGAIN TO 53 FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF A SMALL-SCALE EPIDEMIC IN LATE 1973 AND EARLY 1974.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SURVEY ON MEASLES VACCINATION, WHICH SHOWS THAT 41 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED.

ALTHOUGH THIS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE 17 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY IN 1969, THE HERD IMMUNITY IS STILL TOO LOW TO BE ABLE TO PREVENT AN EPIDEMIC.

THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN REMAINS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE DISEASE, THE MAIN REASONS GIVEN FOR THE NON-ACCEPTANCE OF VACCINATION BEING *PARENTS TOO BUSY* AND *SUPERSTITION*

/SOME PARENTS,

SOME PARENTS, THE SURVEY SAYS, STILL CLING TO THE SUPERSTITION THAT MEASLES IS CAUSED BY AN INBORN TOXIN WHICH MUST BE RELEASED FROM THE BODY IF THE CHILD WAS TO GROW UP STRONG.

DR. CHOA STRESSED THAT THIS WAS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED.

HE SAID MORE THAN 320,000 CHILDREN IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST MEASLES AND ALL OF THEM WERE ENJOYING GOOD HEALTH.

DR. CHOA REITERATED THAT VACCINATION WAS VERY SAFE AND SIDE EFFECTS WERE SELDOM OBSERVED.

♦A SINGLE INJECTION AT THE AGE OF NINE MONTHS OR OLDER WILL GIVE LONG LASTING PROTECTION,♦ HE ADDED.

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TWO MORE BLOCKS FOR WAH FU ESTATE

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S POPULAR WAH FU ESTATE ON HONG KONG ISLAND IS TO BE EXTENDED TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MORE PUBLIC HOUSING ACCOMMODATION IN THE ABERDEEN AREA.

SITE FORMATION IS TO START LATER IN APRIL ON A NINE-ACRE TERRACED SITE ON WHICH WILL BE BUILT TWO TWIN-TOWER BLOCKS TO HOUSE NEARLY 10,000 PEOPLE IN SELF-CONTAINED FLATS.

THESE TWO NEW BLOCKS WHICH ARE DIRECTLY OPPOSITE WAH HING HOUSE AND WAH SANG HOUSE HAVE A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE EAST LAMMA CHANNEL. CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WILL START IN THE LATTER HALF OF NEXT YEAR AND THE BUILDINGS COULD BE READY FOR OCCUPATION BY EARLY 1978.

WITH THE ADDITIONAL 10,000 RESIDENTS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE EXISTING SHOPPING AND MARKETING FACILITIES WILL BE INADEQUATE. TO COPE WITH THE DEMAND, HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARCHITECTS HAVE INCORPORATED AN 8-STORY BUILDING ON THE SITE TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL FACILITIES.

THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING WILL BE USED AS A RESTAURANT, TWO LOWER FLOORS FOR SHOPS AND MARKET STALLS, THREE FLOORS RESERVED FOR A CAR PARK FOR ABOUT 140 VEHICLES AND TWO BASEMENT FLOORS FOR SERVICE-TRADE SHOPS.

WAH FU ESTATE, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1971, IS VIRTUALLY A SELF-CONTAINED TOWNSHIP WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 45,000. IT HAS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARY FOUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, NINE KINDERGARTENS, A NURSERY, A RESTAURANT, A DEPARTMENT STORE AND A HOST OF OTHER WELFARE FACILITIES TO SERVE RESIDENTS.

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MANPOWER SURVEY OF BUILDING INDUSTRY BEGINS TOMORROW

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SURVEY INTERVIEWERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TOMORROW (APRIL 1) WILL BEGIN COLLECTING INFORMATION IN A FOUR-DAY MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY - THE THIRD OF ITS KIND EVER CONDUCTED IN HONG KONG.

MORE THAN 110 SURVEY INTERVIEWERS WILL BE VISITING SOME 1,300 CONSTRUCTION SITES AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR FIRMS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND APRIL 4.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED BY THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS, COVERS ALL ACTIVE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING SITES AND THE CONTRACTOR FIRMS CONCERNED. ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FIRMS ARE ALSO SURVEYED AT THE SAME TIME.

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WERE SENT TWO WEEKS AGO TO ALL THE CONSTRUCTION SITES AND FIRMS REQUESTING FOR INFORMATION ON :

- * THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED=
- * THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT UNDER TRAINING= AND
- * THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES.

DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, SURVEY INTERVIEWERS WILL VISIT EACH OF THE PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION SITES AND CONTRACTOR FIRMS TO COLLECT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE FROM EMPLOYERS. ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FIRMS ARE REQUESTED TO RETURN THEIR INFORMATION BY POST.

THE SECRETARY OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MR. WONG MAN-KAI STRESSED TODAY THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL SITE OR FIRM.

+FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRY, EMPLOYERS ARE URGED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING THE ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THAT PLANS CAN BE FORMULATED TO MEET THE INDUSTRY'S MANPOWER NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

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YOUTH SCHEME EXTENDED

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THE 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME' STARTED LAST OCTOBER WILL BE CONTINUED IN VIEW OF ITS POPULARITY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ONE OF THE PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE SCHEME HELD AT RAIMONDI COLLEGE IN ROBINSON ROAD THIS MORNING, MR. LEE SAID APPLICATIONS FOR THE SECOND ROUND WOULD BE INVITED SOON.

THIS MORNING'S PROJECT, A THREE-DAY EASTER GATHERING FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS ORGANISED BY RAIMONDI'S COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL, COMPRISES A DAY-LONG CAMP TODAY, A QUIZ COMPETITION TOMORROW AND A GAMES DAY ON WEDNESDAY AT THE ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUND. ASSISTING IN RUNNING THE ACTIVITIES ARE STUDENTS FROM ST. STEPHEN'S GIRLS COLLEGE.

MR. LEE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SO CONCERNED OVER THE WELFARE OF YOUNGER SCHOOL CHILDREN THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE UP SOME OF THEIR HOLIDAY TIME AND SHARE LIFE WITH THEM.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS INDEED LIVING UP TO THE SPIRIT OF THE SCHEME.

HE RECALLED THAT THE 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME' WAS LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICES. A TOTAL OF 93 PROJECTS WERE SUBMITTED OUT OF WHICH 43 WERE CHOSEN.

ALTHOUGH 600 STUDENTS WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE SUPPORTED PROJECTS THE NUMBERS WHO WOULD BENEFIT RAN INTO THE THOUSANDS, HE SAID.

MR. LEE ALSO MENTIONED SOME OF THE PROJECTS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED. THESE INCLUDE A TELEPHONE COACHING SERVICE TO HELP FORM ONE STUDENTS IN KWUN TONG WITH THEIR PROBLEMS= A FACT-FINDING SURVEY AND A PHOTO EXHIBITION BY FACTORY WORKERS IN WONG TAI SIN= A WESTERN DISTRICT YOUTH NEWSPAPER IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND OPINION, AND A FACTORY YOUTH GROUP IN KWUN TONG THAT WAS ORGANISING ACTIVITIES TO MEET THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF YOUNG WOMAN WORKING IN FACTORIES.

WHILE THE MANY

WHILE THE MANY DIFFERENT PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THE SCHEME MATERIALISED IN VARIOUS FORMS, HE SAID, THEY ALL HAD ONE COMMON GOAL -- TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN TALENTS AND TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH COMBINED AND DEVOTED GROUP EFFORT.

HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MORE MEANINGFUL PROJECTS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT STARTS THE SCHEME FOR THE SECOND TIME.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR. LEE'S SPEECH ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR.

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ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Monday, March 31, 1975

TSUEN WAN - FASTEST GROWING DISTRICT IN NEW TERRITORIES

Queen's Visit To Area Will Give Her Some Idea Of Developments

The Queen's visit to Tsuen Wan on Tuesday, May 6, will enable her to see developments in a district in the New Territories which is going through a period of unparalleled growth and change.

In 1949, the population stood at 20,000. The Queen will be interested to learn that today the figure exceeds 400,000, and is projected to reach 850,000 in the next decade.

Already Tsuen Wan alone houses half the population of the New Territories.

Covering an area of 26 square miles, Tsuen Wan is often regarded by its own people as "a district of contrasts", and the view is largely shared by urban visitors. The latter see the tremendous industrialisation going on, but are also impressed by the way this has not been allowed to disturb the surrounding rural scenery.

The Tsuen Wan district, properly speaking, includes Tsuen Wan New Town, northeast Lantau, Tsing Yi Island, and Ma Wan.

The area known as Kwai Chung largely consists of reclaimed land, and is also growing fast. This township already has eight public housing estates, and several more are either being built or planned.

/The Queen

The Queen will see Kwai Chung's most outstanding feature, the container terminal, when she is driven there from Tsuen Wan.

Tsuen Wan New Town is already half developed. About 75 per cent of its 400,000 population are accommodated in eight fully-completed and two partially-completed public housing estates.

Present-day Tsuen Wan lies partly on reclaimed land, but also covers an area previously occupied by rural folk who relied upon the soil and the sea for their livelihood.

Before World War II, some industrial development occurred along Castle Peak Road, but the pace was leisurely. It was the tide of immigrants into the area from 1949 which brought about the first population increase.

This sudden influx of manpower was successfully tapped by textile entrepreneurs who settled in the area and opened mills.

By the early 1950s, Tsuen Wan was established as the textile centre of Hong Kong, and it then became apparent that the area would develop as an industrial town. As a result, a layout was drawn up and, soon afterwards, Tai Wo Hau Estate for immigrant and indigenous squatters was built. Old villages nearby were cleared and redeveloped.

Reclamation was subsequently carried out in the bay, and the area now making up Tsuen Wan proper began to take recognisable form in the early 1960s.