



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, February 3, 1974

## NEW JOB FOR PRISONS INSPECTOR

To Review Management Procedures Of Prisons Department

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Hong Kong's first Inspector of Prisons has been appointed to regularly review management procedures of the Prisons Department, to ensure effective implementation of its policies, and to report on recommendations for improvements.

The man chosen for the task is Mr. David Hampton, who has been Senior Superintendent of the department in charge of young offenders.

In this permanent post, he will be able to look more in depth into the management of the various prisons institutions, including security aspects and liaison with the Police.

In this, he will be helping the Commissioner of Prisons most of whose time has been taken up by administrative work.

"The new post is modelled on the prison inspectorate system in the U.K. which was introduced in 1969, following recommendations of the Mountbatten Report on reorganisation of the prison service there," Mr. Hampton said.

"The Inspectors there were specially appointed to direct attention on regular inspection of prison services, separate from normal executive functions," he said.

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To assist him in his new task, he was attached for 6 weeks late last year to the British Home Office to understudy the inspectorate system.

"I was impressed with the wealth of knowledge of the inspectors, and the experience has been both instructive and useful," he said.

"To set out on the work of the new post," Mr. Hampton said, "much systematic information is required of the establishment and work of the various institutions in Hong Kong."

These number 14 at present -- 12 penal institutions and a Halfway House in addition to a Staff Training Institute.

"And in order to be effective and to carry through any recommendations, credibility is essential," he said.

This, he was confident, after 26 years' service in the department, he had. So had the Chief Officer and four Principal Officers who will assist him in his inspection work.

"As Inspector of Prisons, I will make systematic arrangements to report to the Commissioner of Prisons on any short-comings and needs of the prisons institutions, and to ensure that policies and standing orders are effectively carried out," he said.

"I will also make recommendations where inspection reveals that alternatives to existing procedures are preferable.

"There will be follow-up inspections to examine the implementation of recommendations and to look at the progress," he added.

Mr. Hampton emphasised, however, that his work was not a fault-finding mission but rather constructive efforts in helping the various institutions to perform their roles better.

"A fresh look at things is always helpful," he said.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a picture of Mr. Hampton are available for collection at the GIS press room, Beaconsfield House, 6th floor.