



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Policemen and firemen are recognised for bravery in the Jumbo Restaurant fire	1
Motorists are warned against overtaking inside the Lion Rock Tunnel	4
Government information teams bring news to villagers in remote places	6
The first "Meet the Media" session will be held this week ..	8
About 300 graduating nurses will receive certificates on Thursday	9
Lady MacLehose is to visit two Community Chest agencies this week	10
The Labour Department has published a booklet on strikes and the law	11
Labour Officer says management has moral responsibility to provide a safe working place for employees	12

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 1 -

Embargo Note to Editors: The following announcement is being made simultaneously in London tonight. Publication is permitted in Hong Kong newspapers tomorrow (Wednesday) morning but no news agencies or overseas radio transmissions of the announcement may carry the information without the embargo qualification.

The news may be broadcast from 7 a.m. onwards over the local radio and TV stations tomorrow.

On no account should the recipients be contacted for interviews or for information relative to his career or be approached in any way in connection with the award before this has been publicly announced.

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AWARDS TO POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN FOR BRAVERY IN JUMBO FIRE

Two Civilians Honoured For Helping Police

Ten members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and the Fire Services have been given awards in recognition of the part they played in rescuing a number of people from the Jumbo Floating Restaurant fire in Aberdeen in October 1971.

Police Inspector James Hogg Bruce and Fireman Choi Chor were awarded the George Medal.

/The other

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 2 -

The other eight received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct. They are Police Constables Lui Chiu-kwan, Leung Shing-chau, Tam Wai-hung and Chan Shing-yuk; Station Officer Lo Shiu-kuen and Assistant Station Officer Pun Wai-cheung, both from the Fire Services, and Firemen Chan Shing-tak and Wong Shiu-hung.

Two members of the public, Mr. Lau Kam-yan and Mr. Tse Yuen-chi, also received the Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct.

The awards were in connection with an armed robbery at the Wan Chai branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank on March 17, 1971.

Rescue

On the day of the Jumbo Restaurant fire, Inspector Bruce was off duty and was driving in Aberdeen when he saw dense smoke coming from the harbour.

He immediately dialed 999 and then telephoned the Inspectors' Mess in Aberdeen to alert other off duty officers.

He went immediately to the scene and, after encouraging boat crews nearby to help in rescue work, commandeered a speedboat to get to the blaze.

However, the heat was so intense from a distance of 50 yards that he had to enter the water and swim to the fiercely burning hull.

He did this three times, rescuing five people in all despite the heat and the danger from explosions. His task was made more hazardous by survivors holding on to him and struggling while being rescued.

Police Constable Lui dived fully clothed into the water to rescue a badly injured man. He later drove injured people to hospital in a Police landrover.

/Police

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 3 -

Police Constables Leung, Tam and Chan were members of the crew of a launch and used life buoys to pick up survivors from the vicinity of the burning restaurant. They also jumped into the water to save between them 25 people.

The five fire officers and men were stationed at the Aberdeen Fire Station at the time of the fire.

On receiving the fire alarm, they raced to the Aberdeen waterfront and took a motorised sampan out.

However, the boat broke down while approaching the scene; all of them took off their uniforms, dived into the water and swam to the side of the burning ship to rescue people.

Despite the intense heat and numerous explosions, the firemen displayed gallantry of the highest order in complete disregard to their own safety.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 4 -

WARNING AGAINST OVERTAKING OR SPEEDING

Inside Lion Rock Tunnel

The Superintendent of the Lion Rock Tunnel, Mr. F.W. May, today reminded motorists that there should be strictly no overtaking or speeding inside the tunnel.

He said that besides being against tunnel regulations, such senseless acts had often led to serious accidents.

For the first ten months of the current financial year (April 1972 to January 1973), there was a total of 153 accidents within the tunnel area, with about 25 per cent of them happening inside the tunnel itself.

Eighteen of these accidents involved injuries to 26 people, he added.

Mr. May stressed that many of the accidents were obviously caused by speeding or carelessness.

Citing one example, he said that a car stopping at the tunnel toll booth to pay fees was rammed into from behind by a speeding car.

"Such accidents could obviously have been avoided if more care had been taken", he said.

Mr. May said that the tunnel control staff had been paying close attention to motorists who violate tunnel regulations.

Some 100 court summonses and 40 written notices had been issued to motorists by the control staff during the first ten months of the current financial year.

/"On top

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 5 -

"On top of this, many verbal warnings of various kinds had been given every day to motorists who violated less serious regulations," he added.

Mr. May went on to say that an average of 30 vehicle breakdowns occurred inside the tunnel every month causing severe traffic congestion.

"Some of these breakdowns were due to mechanical faults but others, caused by such reasons as the running out of petrol, could again have been avoided if more care had been exercised," he added.

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SPORTS MEET OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Note to Editors: The joint annual sports meet of four technical schools will take place tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon at the Hong Kong Government Stadium.

The schools are the Kowloon Technical School, Shau Kei Wan Technical School, the Ho Tung Technical School for Girls and the Lung Cheung Technical School.

The Deputy Director of Education (Administration), Mr. C.J.G. Lowe, will address the meet and present the trophies.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation, which begins at 4.15 p.m.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 6 -

CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAMS BRING NEWS TO VILLAGERS

Almost every day after office hours, two government teams set out by landrovers for the more remote villages in the New Territories.

Villagers - young and old alike - are all smiles when they see them. They know they can look forward to an evening of entertainment.

These teams are from the Civilian Information Team, a unit operated by the Government Information Services in conjunction with the New Territories Administration. They were set up in June 1971 and have been operating continuously since then.

The main function of the C.I.T. is to bring news and entertainment to New Territories villagers directly by means of film shows, slides, tape recordings and reading material of special interest to them.

In addition, the teams supplement the liaison work of the New Territories Administration, the Police and the Army.

The areas which the teams visit are mainly those which do not enjoy regular access to news through the visual and printed media.

A spokesman of the C.I.T. said today: "Villagers in these areas seldom leave the place where they live. They have either little or no opportunity to visit the cinemas and are chosen for visits because television reception is poor in their homes."

"To help them, we often install a communal television set where better reception is possible," he said.

/At present,

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 7 -

At present, the C.I.T. has two sub-units, called teams, each of which has the equipment to run a completely mobile film/information programme. This includes a number of coloured documentary, feature and educational films.

"Hong Kong Today" produced by the Government Information Services and Rediffusion's "Hong Kong Focus" are available for showing to the villagers.

During the past 18 months, more than 480 film shows have been given in 320 different villages.

"The general reaction towards these shows is very good," the spokesman commented.

"It has been noticed on many occasions that even people from other villages come to enjoy the evening's programme."

There are still a few areas which have not yet been visited by the C.I.T.

"This is because the New Territories occupy an area of over 360 square miles with more than 230 outlying islands," the spokesman explained.

Some of the villages are totally inaccessible by road which means that the teams have to travel by launch or helicopter.

In view of the encouraging response from the villagers, plans are already in hand to add two more teams to the Civil Information Team unit in the forthcoming year.

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/8

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 8 -

FIRST "MEET THE MEDIA" SESSION

An open press conference has been arranged for members of the press this week so that they can meet senior Government officers.

We hope to make this the first of a series of "Meet the Media" sessions where newsmen will have the chance to question senior Government officers about the work of their departments.

This week's session will be concerned with social services. It will be on the record and T.V. and radio coverage facilities will be provided.

The meeting will be held on Friday (February 23) at 12.15 p.m.

The officers attending will be the Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, Social Services Branch, Mr. P.B. Williams; the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. F.K. Li; the Director of Medical and Health, Dr. G.H. Choa; the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Paul Tsui; and the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning.

In the past newsmen have said that it is not always easy for them to make direct contact with department heads. We hope that these sessions will provide the opportunity to put this right.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the press conference, which will be held in the G.I.S. 35 mm Theatre on the 5th floor of Beaconsfield House.

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/9

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 9 -

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

312 Graduating From Government Hospitals' Schools Of Nursing

Three hundred and twelve graduates from the schools of nursing attached to government hospitals will receive certificates at a ceremony in the City Hall Concert Hall at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 22.

Lady Rodrigues will present the certificates.

An audience of 1,000 will be welcomed by Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, after which Miss K.J. Veevers, Principal Nursing Officer, will present her annual report.

After the presentation of certificates, Sir Albert Rodrigues, Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council, will address the Graduates.

The Concert Hall ceremony will end with a presentation of bouquets to Lady Rodrigues and Mrs. Choa.

Graduates and guests will then proceed to the Exhibition Hall for group photographs, and tea.

Note to Editors:

You are invited to have the ceremony covered.

Your representatives should be in the Concert Hall by 10.45 a.m. Photographers are requested to apply to the Government Information Services, 6th floor, Beaconsfield House, for badges for admission to the Concert Hall. It is requested that photographers refrain from obstructing the return of graduates from the stage to their seats in the auditorium, and not to mount the stage for close-ups. Copies of the list of graduates, the Principal Nursing Officer's report, and Sir Albert's speech, will be distributed in the Press boxes, Government Information Services, in the evening of February 22. They will also be available for collection from 11 a.m. on that day.

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/10

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 10 -

LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT COMMUNITY CHEST AGENCIES

Lady MacLehose, President of the Community Chest of Hong Kong, will visit another two member agencies of the Chest in Wan Chai and North Point on Thursday to see for herself the activities of the agencies.

She already visited three such member agencies in November last year.

The two agencies she will visit on Thursday are the Hong Kong Social Therapy Centre of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society in Wan Chai, and the North Point Youth Centre of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

Lady MacLehose will be accompanied on the visits by her Social Secretary, Miss Jennifer Boyle, and the Executive Director of the Community Chest, Mr. Colin W. Morrison.

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Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the visits. Transport will be provided. Press Representatives are requested to assemble at the Central Government Offices Open Car Park NOT LATER than 5.15 p.m. on Thursday.

Mr. Dennis Leung of the Government Information Services will be present to assist the Press.

Lady MacLehose is scheduled to arrive at the Hong Kong Social Therapy Centre of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, City Mansion, Flats "G" and "H", 10th and 11th floors, Nos. 144-149 Gloucester Road, at 6 p.m.

She will arrive at the North Point Youth Centre situated at the Assembly Hall, Housing Authority Estate, Java Road, at about 6.40 p.m.

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/11

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 11 -

BOOKLET ON STRIKES AND THE LAW

The Labour Department has recently prepared a booklet in English and Chinese describing in non-legal language the law on strikes, strikers and lockouts.

This booklet which does not touch upon the legal position of trade unions when they become involved in strikes, should be of particular interest to employers, workers and trade unionists, and is being distributed free of charge.

It is also available from the Labour Department headquarters, Lee Gardens, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong (telephone no. 5-778271 ext. 75).

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/12

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 12 -

MANAGEMENT HAS LEGAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

To Provide Safe Work Place For Employees

The Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, Mr. A.H. Carter, today told a meeting of some of Hong Kong's top management executives that they had a legal and moral responsibility to provide a safe place for their employees to work.

Too often, he said, both management and workers seemed to regard accidents as something which "just happened".

"This widely-held belief is false and must be dispelled," he said. "Every accident has a cause or a series of causes.

"Therefore it is logical to assume that there must be a remedy or remedies.

"In general, all industrial accidents result from unsafe physical conditions or unsafe acts by an individual."

Mr. Carter was addressing today's luncheon meeting at the Mandarin Hotel of the Personnel Management Club of Hong Kong, an offspring of the Hong Kong Management Association.

Mr. Carter told the executives that last year 121 industrial workers were killed, and 18,992 accidents involving bodily injuries were reported to the Labour Department.

If occupational accidents in spheres outside of industrial undertakings were included in the figure, it leapt to 296 deaths and 29,343 accidents involving bodily injuries.

/Mr. Carter

Tuesday, February 20, 1973

- 13 -

Mr. Carter stressed that an employer had a legal responsibility to provide a safe working place for his employees. He said that it was only by implementing various safety measures that the number of industrial accidents could be reduced.

"Top management involvement is essential if any accident prevention programme is to succeed," he said.

Mr. Carter also stressed the importance of the role of the foreman or supervisor in the promotion of industrial safety.

"He is the vital figure in production," he said, "and he is in the best position to detect such things as deterioration of machine guarding, floor surface and other items which if unattended may lead to accidents.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.