



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1976

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

IMPORTANT ROLE OF VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS

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HONG KONG IS NOW KEEPING A CREDITABLE FLEET OF 44 VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS WHICH COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY THROUGHOUT THEIR VOYAGES.

WEATHER OBSERVATIONS ARE DESPATCHED BY RADIO AT FIXED INTERVALS OF EVERY SIX HOURS DAILY TO THE CENTRAL FORECASTING OFFICE OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS OBSERVING SHIPS WILL BE GATHERED, VERIFIED AND USED FOR PREPARING WEATHER BULLETINS AND FORECASTS FOR ALL SHIPS IN THE WEST PACIFIC AND CHINA SEAS.

+REGULAR WEATHER REPORTS FROM SHIPS AT SEA ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION WHICH FORECASTERS BASE UPON IN FORMULATING FORECASTS,+ SAID MR. CHU WING-KI, SCIENTIFIC OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S MARINE METEOROLOGICAL SECTION. +THEY ARE MORE RELIABLE AND INEXPENSIVE.+

+METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES ARE HELPFUL IN OBTAINING CERTAIN WEATHER INFORMATIONS,+ HE SAID, +BUT THEY CANNOT REPLACE SHIPS' REPORTS.+

+FOR EXAMPLE,+ HE EXPLAINED, +SEA SURFACE PRESSURE, WIND SPEEDS AND SEA WAVES CANNOT BE INFERRED FROM SATELLITE PICTURES WITH ACCEPTABLE PRECISION.+

MASTERS OF SHIPS BASED IN HONG KONG ARE OFTEN CONTACTED BY THE SECTION'S PORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS WEATHER OBSERVING SERVICE.

ONCE IT IS AGREED, METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS BAROMETER, THERMOMETER AND BAROGRAPH AS WELL AS LOG BOOKS AND RADIO FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED. THE SHIP'S OFFICERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THEIR USES.

THE PORT METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER ALSO KEEPS REGULAR CHECKS ON WEATHER OBSERVING INSTRUMENTS OF VOLUNTARY SHIPS WHENEVER THEY COME INTO PORT.

WHEN A SHIP SETS OUT TO SEA, MR. CHU EXPLAINED, OFFICERS ON BOARD WILL MAKE REGULAR WEATHER OBSERVATIONS, RECORD THEM IN THE LOG BOOK AND AT THE SAME TIME RADIO REPORTS TO WEATHER COLLECTING CENTRES.

/RADIO

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RADIO WEATHER REPORTS RECEIVED IN HONG KONG ARE IMMEDIATELY RELAYED TO NEIGHBOURING CENTRES IN JAPAN, PEKING AND BANGKOK FOR INFORMATION.

APART FROM ROUTINE WEATHER OBSERVATIONS, DATA ABOUT OCEAN CURRENTS AND THE OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL PHENOMENA ARE ALSO RECORDED IN THE LOG BOOKS.

COMPLETED LOG BOOKS OF HONG KONG BASED OBSERVING SHIPS WILL BE KEPT BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY. CONTENTS THEREIN ARE CAREFULLY CHECKED, EDITED AND TRANSFERRED TO PUNCH CARDS FOR COMPUTER USE.

+ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION, +MR. CHU SAID, +THESE MARINE CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA ON PUNCH CARDS ARE EXCHANGED AMONG COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.+

LAST YEAR ALONE, ABOUT 50,000 CARDS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FROM OTHER WEATHER COLLECTING CENTRES WHILE ABOUT 9,000 CARDS PUNCHED IN HONG KONG WERE DESPATCHED TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

MR. CHU SAID: +THE HISTORY OF MARINE METEOROLOGY REALLY DATES BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WHEN THE MAIN IMPETUS TO CREATE A METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVING SYSTEM CAME FROM MARINERS WHOSE SAILING OPERATIONS AND INDEED WHOSE VERY LIVES, DEPENDED ON THE VAGARIES OF WEATHER.

+HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS WAS FIRST OPERATED INTERNATIONALLY IN 1874 WHEN AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AMONG MARINE METEOROLOGICAL EXPERTS FROM 14 COUNTRIES AT A CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

+AND, THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 7,000 VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.+

+THE SYSTEM IS VERY GOOD AND IT IS A BENEFIT TO ALL SHIPS BECAUSE IN RETURN OF THE SERVICE WE WILL GET A MORE PRECISE MARINE WEATHER FORECAST, +REMARKED CAPTAIN M.T. ANDERSON OF PASSENGER LINER +CORAL PRINCESS+, ONE OF HONG KONG'S OBSERVING SHIPS.

CAPTAIN ANDERSON ALSO URGED MASTERS AND CAPTAINS OF OTHER SHIPS TO JOIN IN THIS SERVICE.

HE SAID: +THERE IS NO HARDSHIP AT ALL OF DOING THIS SERVICE FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND IT ONLY TAKES THE OFFICERS A FEW MINUTES TO FINISH ONE ROUTINE OBSERVATION.+

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON JUNE 4 (FRIDAY) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN CENTRAL DISTRICT, THE AFFECTED PREMISES WILL BE NO. 20-62 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, NO. 1-21D, AND 2-44 STANLEY STREET, NO. 1-49 AND 2-76 WELLINGTON STREET, AND NO. 1-31B AND 2-16 WYNDHAM STREET.

BUILDINGS IN D'AGUILAR STREET, WO ON LANE, LAN KWAI FONG, WYNDHAM STREET, ON HING STREET AND ON LAN STREET WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

IN MONGKOK, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, NULLAH ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, LUEN WAN ROAD, ARGYLE STREET AND TUNG CHOI STREET INCLUDING SAI YEE STREET, FA YUEN STREET, BUTE STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, FIFE STREET AND CERTAIN PREMISES IN FIFE STREET, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET AND NATHAN ROAD.

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