



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, March 21, 1974

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Preventive Service steps up fight against illicit drug trafficking .....	1
Modern cargo handling basin in Wanchai ready in two months .	4
Lifting of oil embargo on USA not likely to affect Hong Kong .....	6
Major traffic diversions in Ho Man Tin to facilitate construction of flyover .....	7
Variety show to mark 8th anniversary of Tai Hang Tung community centre .....	9
"Know Your Government" forum for students to be held tomorrow .....	10
Governor visits optical factory to see manufacturing process .....	11
Residents of Lei Muk Shue Estate to get community hall and welfare complex .....	12
Governor's message to H.R.H. the Princess Anne .....	13

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 1 -

INCREASED EFFORTS BY PREVENTIVE SERVICE

To Suppress Narcotics Traffic

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The 1,000-strong Preventive Service is straining its resources to the limit in an increased effort to prevent and suppress the traffic in illicit narcotics.

This assurance was given today by the Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. David Jordan, in an address to the Kowloon Rotary Club on the work of the Preventive Service, of which he is Commissioner.

He pointed out that during the past two years Preventive Service personnel have been responsible for seizures of dangerous drugs valued at just over \$50 million at street level.

Both the police and the Preventive Service, he said, had achieved some success in the battle against narcotics, but there was still a very long way to go.

"The traffic in narcotics has to be tackled at every stage — from the cultivation of the opium poppy to the treatment and rehabilitation of the addict," he added.

Mr. Jordan said that the White Paper issued by the government last week re-affirmed its determination to do everything it can to eradicate this evil from our society, and the Preventive Service would continue to play its part.

But if the government agencies concerned were to succeed in this "long campaign," support and help from the public was needed.

/"It's pretty .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 2 -

"It's pretty difficult for anyone to carry on a large-scale drug-trafficking or drug manufacturing business without arousing someone's suspicions," he said.

If the public would provide information -- anonymously if they liked -- the authorities would be greatly assisted in their job of trying to protect the community from the narcotics scourge.

Mr. Jordan said that during the past two years the evils and dangers of narcotics addiction -- and the immense damage done to both the economy and the health of the people -- have highlighted the vital need to take effective action against all forms of drug trafficking.

The main function of the Preventive Service in this respect was to prevent trafficking, to put every obstacle in the path of the traffickers and to make it as difficult, dangerous and expensive as possible for them.

"Our resources, with about 1,000 officers and men, are strained to the limit, but nevertheless we have made an impact on the problem in bottling up the major danger spots -- the harbour and airport, the main entry points," said Mr. Jordan.

"Over the past few years, the methods we have employed have succeeded in denying the use of these areas to all but the casual smuggler with the result that traffickers have had to resort to methods which are both expensive and complex."

Mr. Jordan also spoke about the work of the Preventive Service in collecting government revenue from dutiable commodities.

He said that the total estimated revenue from duties on oils, liquor and tobacco in the coming year from April 1, 1974, is \$535 million, which is over 10 per cent of the estimate of total revenue for the year.

/"Collecting .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 3 -

"Collecting taxes and duties is never a popular job but it is an essential one," he pointed out.

"We live in an increasingly complex society in which the government has a very big role to play in providing many services that must be provided by some central authority, and in financing other services too.

"We must have a police force, hospitals, schools, housing, roads and many other things. The government has to collect taxes to do all these things and we should all pay our share. If any of us avoids paying his share then the law-abiding people have to pay more to make up for it."

Mr. Jordan continued: "It is difficult to relate the few cents we pay on a packet of cigarettes or a drink to the huge sums that the government raises and spends on our behalf. It is perhaps easier when we see reports of cases of large-scale tax evasion.

"Nevertheless, the fact remains that when anyone cheats the tax collector he is not just cheating the government: he is cheating us all, because he is not paying his fair share for the services from which we all benefit."

Mr. Jordan said he was sure we would accept too that we must not expect to receive benefits in direct proportion to the tax we pay.

"It is right that those of us who are better off should contribute more to the benefit of the community which gave us our opportunities, and that those who have not had our good fortune should contribute less," he added.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Jordan's speech (English only) are boxed for collection.

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/4 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 4 -

## FIRST MODERN CARGO HANDLING BASIN

Ready In About Two Months

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Hong Kong's first specially built cargo handling area for small craft at the Wanchai Reclamation is nearing completion with the construction of two building blocks.

These two blocks - one in two storeys for offices and one single-storey with a canteen, toilets and showers - will be used by Marine Department staff who will manage the facilities.

Work is expected to start later this month and soon after its completion in two months, the cargo handling basin will be ready for operation.

The Wanchai basin is the first of 10 other similar facilities being planned or under construction. Sites for the others are in Kwun Tong, Chai Wan, Shaukwan, Western District, Kowloon Bay, Tai Kok Tsui, Shamshuipo, Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.

It is situated on the waterfront to the east of the Wanchai ferry pier concourse and near the entrance to the cross harbour tunnel. It will provide facilities for the loading and unloading of cargo by both vessels and vehicles.

"Marine Department staff will work 24 hours a day to enable cargo to be handled even at night," the Senior Marine Officer (Cargo Handling), Mr. Bernard Tang said. "As the basin is sheltered from the open sea by an arm extending into the harbour, cargo movement can be maintained even when number one typhoon signal is up.

/"It is also .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 5 -

"It is also proposed to charge a lower fee for the use of the basin at night," Mr. Tang said.

"This," he added, "should encourage shippers to work their cargo during off-peak hours, and help to reduce traffic congestion on the roads."

The waterfront at the basin is more than 2,800 feet long and can be used, all at the same time, by 21 lighters, 28 motor cargo boats and 126 lorries.

Optimum use will be made of this waterfrontage, Mr. Tang said. The supervising staff will be equipped with portable radios and will be in constant contact with each other so as to direct lorries to their correct positions along the waterfront in the shortest time and with the least inconvenience.

When fully operational, the basin will be able to handle more than 1,000 tons of cargo a day.

This will boost the local cargo handling capacity, Mr. Tang said, besides alleviating any temporary shortage of cargo handling area taken up by the Central reclamation scheme.

The Marine Department is having discussions with transport companies and the cargo handling community on the operation of the new facilities.

Anyone wishing to make use of the facilities or who wants to have more details can contact Mr. Bernard Tang on Tel. No. 5-450181.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the cargo handling basin are boxed for collection.

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/6 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 6 -

HONG KONG UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

By Lifting Of Arab Oil Embargo On America

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The Director of Oil Supplies, Mr. Roy Porter, said today that based on information he had received so far, Hong Kong was not likely to be directly affected in any way by the lifting of the Arab oil embargo on the United States.

"But, of course, anything which decreases world tensions and economic problems is to be welcomed," Mr. Porter added.

The Director of Oil Supplies was answering questions from newspapers and members of the public who wanted to know whether the Arab move meant increased supplies to Hong Kong as well.

Mr. Porter explained that the Arab nations were reported to have said they would increase production sufficiently only to meet American needs.

"If this is so, there will be no effect whatsoever on Hong Kong, good or bad," he said.

"But," he added, "the practical results of the decision have still to be seen."

Mr. Porter assured the public that his department was continuing to watch developments very closely, and would lift partially or entirely the remaining restrictions as soon as it was possible to do so without adversely affecting essential services and industry.

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/7 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 7 -

TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS IN HO MAN TIN

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An extensive traffic diversion scheme will come into operation on Saturday morning (March 23) in conjunction with work on the new flyover being built in Argyle Street to cross the Princess Margaret Road flyover.

Work on the project has now reached the stage where piles have to be sunk close to the Princess Margaret Road flyover, and to enable this to be carried out, the present traffic pattern has to be altered for a period of about two months.

From 10 a.m. on Saturday, vehicles travelling south on Waterloo Road will no longer be able to continue straight through at ground level into Princess Margaret Road.

Traffic wishing access to the Ho Man Tin area should use the existing Princess Margaret Road flyover into Princess Margaret Road, turn left into Sheung Hing Street, left into Fat Kwong Street and left into Sheung Shing Street.

Through-traffic wishing to continue down Waterloo Road or turn right from Waterloo Road into Argyle Street will only be able to operate on one lane instead of the normal two.

Traffic from the Mong Kok direction will not be able to turn right into Princess Margaret Road. Motorists wishing to go to schools in the Ho Man Tin area should follow the newly placed direction signs to Waterloo Road, Pui Ching Road, Fat Kwong Street and Sheung Shing Street.

/Two new .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 8 -

Two new U-turns have been constructed to help relieve, as much as possible, the inevitable disruption to traffic by these diversions.

One will enable cross-harbour tunnel-bound traffic from the Mong Kok area to return into Argyle Street and then along Waterloo Road, and the other will enable southbound traffic in Waterloo Road to turn north before the Argyle Street junction and back into Waterloo Road, then left into Prince Edward Road towards Mong Kok.

Police will be on hand to assist motorists during the implementation of the scheme.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that part of the piling for the new Argyle Street flyover is being done by a machine specially developed for the work by the main contractor, Gammon (Hong Kong) Limited.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a diagram showing the diversion are boxed for collection.

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/9 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 9 -

COMMUNITY CENTRE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

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The Social Welfare Department's Community Centre in Tai Hang Tung, Kowloon, will be celebrating its 8th Anniversary tomorrow (Friday).

Opened in 1966, the Centre provides a variety of community, group and welfare services for people living in the surrounding areas. It also has a library with a membership of 3,500, a club for the deaf and a nursery run by a voluntary organization which caters for small children.

The department's Rural Mobile Service Unit which organizes activities for young people in the New Territories as well as providing a library on wheels service, is also attached to the Centre.

To mark its anniversary, members of the Centre will be holding an evening of celebration tomorrow at which there will be entertainment in the form of songs and dances, dramas and demonstrations of Chinese boxing and a gymnastic display. Winners of various competitions sponsored by the Centre will receive their prizes together with volunteers who will be given souvenirs in appreciation of their services during the past year.

It is expected that some 400 people will attend the ceremony which will be officiated by Mr. Kwok Ka-chi, Principal Social Welfare Officer of the Group and Community Division under which the Community Centres are operated.

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Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 10 -

OVER 600 STUDENTS TO ATTEND FORUM

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More than 600 secondary students will attend tomorrow's forum "Knowing Your Government" at the Ho Lap College assembly hall in San Po Kong, Kowloon.

Twenty-four representatives from 12 schools will play an active part in the discussions at the forum, an event organised by the Economic and Public Affairs Section of the Department in collaboration with the City District Office, Wong Tai Sin.

They will be addressed in Cantonese by a Chinese University lecturer and three government officials. Before the talks and discussions begin, prizes and souvenirs will be presented to the winners of the Second Civic Week's exhibition.

Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen, Unofficial Member of Legislative Council, will make a speech before the school forum is opened by the Deputy Director of Education (Professional), Mr. Ho Nga-ming.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send representatives to cover the events tomorrow.

The prize-giving ceremony begins at 9.40 a.m. and the forum will last from 10.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.

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/11 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 11 -

GOVERNOR TOURS OPTICAL FACTORY

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today toured the North Point factory of W. Haking Industries (Mechanics & Optics) Ltd to see manufacturing operations in progress.

The firm employs over 3,000 workers and is the largest and most sophisticated manufacturer in the photographic and optical products industry in Hong Kong.

Sir Murray visited the firm's 20-storey complex at Haking Building, 981, King's Road, accompanied by the Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. David Jordan. They were met on arrival by the governing directors, Mr. Haking Wong and Miss Pauline Chan.

As well as seeing manufacturing operations, Sir Murray also visited some of the family living quarters provided for the factory's employees.

At the end of 1973 the photographic and optical instruments industry in Hong Kong comprised 51 factories employing 3,300 workers. Exports of cameras and other optical instruments last year amounted to \$136 million - an increase of 34 per cent over 1972.

The main overseas markets for the industry are the United States, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia and Singapore. The value of exports has increased steadily over the past four years, averaging an annual growth rate of 23 per cent.

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/12 .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 12 -

NEW COMMUNITY HALL - WELFARE COMPLEX FOR TSUEN WAN

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The Social Welfare Department is now inviting voluntary welfare organizations to apply for space in a community hall and welfare complex being planned for the Lei Muk Shue Housing Estate in Tsuen Wan.

Unlike previous estates where all welfare services are housed in a single building, the welfare accommodation for Lei Muk Shue will be separate.

Those welfare organizations extending their services to this estate will be accommodated in Blocks 1 and 2. The whole of the ground and 1st floors of Block 1 and part of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors of Block 2 have been reserved for this purpose. Added to this will be a communal hall which is being built as an annex to the high blocks to complete the complex. The total area making up this community hall and welfare complex will be nearly 30,000 square feet.

The community hall will be managed by the Social Welfare Department while the welfare premises will be managed by the Housing Department.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from the Planning and Development Unit of the Social Welfare Department in Lee Gardens, Hong Kong.

Estate welfare accommodation is planned according to the provision of one estate welfare building or complex for every 50,000 people.

When completed in 1975 the population of Lei Muk Shue will be 49,000 accommodated in 14 blocks. At the moment eight of these have been completed and there are now about 30,000 people living there. The other blocks will be

/finished by .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

- 13 -

finished by mid-1975 when this new community hall and welfare complex is also expected to be ready. Existing welfare facilities include a children's club and library, a nursery, three clinics and four kindergartens.

The aim of an estate welfare building or community hall and complex is to provide co-ordinated social welfare services in estates.

There are currently seven estate welfare buildings under the management of the Social Welfare Department and these are located at Lam Tin (two centres), Sau Mau Ping (two centres), Shek Lei, Ngau Tau Kok, Tsz Wan Shan. Another is under construction in Tsz Wan Shan, and should be completed by August this year.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE TO PRINCESS ANNE

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, has sent a message to the Secretary of State on behalf of the people of Hong Kong expressing relief over the escape of H.R.H. the Princess Anne and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, in yesterday's attack on them.

In his message, the Governor says:

"Please inform Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of the relief with which the people of Hong Kong learned that H.R.H. and Captain Mark Phillips escaped injury in the disgraceful attack made upon them yesterday."

- - - - 0 - - - -

Thursday, March 21, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realized today (Thursday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
Sec Mew - old crop		1.96
- new crop	Good	2.00
S.C. Jien - new crop	Good	1.94
Po Ngai	-	-
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	-	-
10-15% Broken	-	-
A1 Super Extra	-	-
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	Good	2.00
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<u>Australian Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.60

/Supplies and .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	5.2	2.8	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.7	0.8	1.8
Squid	Limited	6.0	3.0	5.0
Hair-Tails	Normal	3.0	1.2	2.6
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.7	1.2	2.0
Croakers	Good	2.6	1.0	2.0
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.8	1.7	2.2
Melon Coat	Normal	3.0	1.8	2.8
Breams	Normal	4.0	3.5	3.8
Yellow Belly	Good	2.4	0.75	1.5
Mackerels	Normal	5.2	3.2	4.0
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.0	0.6	1.5
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.7	1.2	1.4
Horse-Head	Limited	6.5	3.5	5.0
Melon Seed	Scarce	3.8	2.0	3.0
Pomfrets	-	-	-	-
Groupers	Normal	7.5	5.5	6.5
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

/Supplies and .....

Thursday, March 21, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of  
Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.6	1.0	2.0
White cabbage	Scarce	1.8	0.8	1.4
Chinese Lottuce	Limited	1.2	0.4	0.8
Chinese Kale	Limited	2.0	0.8	1.4
Spring onion	Good	0.8	0.3	0.5
Spinach	Scarce	2.0	0.8	1.5
Water cress	Limited	1.2	0.4	0.8
Loaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.2	0.5	0.8
Tomato	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300

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