



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, August 7, 1973

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HONG KONG AND BRITAIN IN MONETARY TALKS

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The Financial Secretary, Mr. C.P. Haddon-Cave, left for London last (Monday) night to hold discussions with officials of the U.K. government on monetary matters. He was accompanied by the Accountant General, Mr. D.W.A. Blye.

The discussions, concerned primarily with the future security of Hong Kong's sterling balances, were arranged at Hong Kong's instigation.

They will be held with a Minister and senior officials of the U.K. Treasury and are expected to last three days, commencing tomorrow (Wednesday).

Mr. Haddon-Cave will be in touch with the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, during the course of the talks and Sir Murray is expected to interrupt his holiday in Scotland in order to fly down to London on Thursday to join the discussions.

Asked whether Hong Kong would be putting forward specific proposals, a Hong Kong Government spokesman said: "Her Majesty's Government is well aware of our views on the security and management of our external reserves. Until the discussions are completed, further details cannot be given."

He pointed out that the Hong Kong Government had been in close touch with Her Majesty's Government, and these discussions follow as a natural development.

The Financial Secretary is expected to return to Hong Kong at the weekend.

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STUDY OF BIRD HAZARD AT KAI TAK

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A major study is to be made of the behaviour pattern and feeding habits of certain local birds which are a potential hazard to aircraft at Hong Kong International Airport.

The study, which will take about three years, is part of a long term programme to eliminate the risk of birdstrikes on aircraft and the attendant danger to airliners and their passengers.

An ornithologist is currently being recruited by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department to conduct the study as recommended in a recent report by a senior British ornithologist.

According to a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department, the problem of birdstrikes was a universal one and basically was a phenomenon of the jet age.

"It is a significant problem," he said, "and a number of short-term measures are being taken to contain it as far as possible until a more permanent solution is found."

Special bird patrols had been introduced, he explained, to discourage birds from frequenting the runway and marksmen from the Fire Services Department were sent out from time to time to shoot them, under special suspension of bird protection regulations.

More comprehensive statistics are also being compiled on birdstrikes and the bodies of dead birds collected from the runway are sent to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department for biological examination.

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Between September 1968 and December 1972, there were a total of 33 known collisions between birds and aircraft in the immediate vicinity of Kai Tak -- eight of which resulted in damage requiring repair.

Known birdstrikes in the four years prior to 1968 numbered 24, with damage caused in five cases. Only one case was recorded so far this year and no damage was reported.

In nearly all recorded cases, the bird involved belonged to a species commonly known as the black-eared kite, a large bird which does not appear to show any fear of aircraft and about which very little is known.

Initial studies indicate that birdstrikes appear more frequent during landing than take-off, and from limited information available it seems that the majority of strikes occur during the landing run and within 100 feet of the runway.

While the number of collisions is fairly constant throughout the year, more occur in October and November than any other month.

This would appear to be consistent with an increase in bird numbers brought about by the autumn immigration of kites as local ornithologists believe.

However, not much is known of the kite's migration habits or territorial behaviour and this will be one of the aspects that will be studied.

Apart from the black-eared kite, which is the major "problem" bird, a number of others, such as seagulls and migrating waders will also be studied as they are likely to constitute a problem in the future.

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#### SEVEN BUILDINGS CONDEMNED

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Two pre-war buildings on Hong Kong Island and five village buildings in Tseng Lan Shue in the New Territories were today (Tuesday) declared dangerous by the Building Authority.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said the old village buildings were inspected after a collapse had been reported subsequent to Typhoon Dot.

The single-storey buildings were constructed of blocks made of mud and straw which, when subjected to heavy water penetration, resulted in their failure and the collapse of an internal wall.

"The condition of these buildings, all of which exhibit fractures and bulges in the walls is dangerous and although careful consideration has been given to their preservation, particularly in the case of the Ancestral Hall, no method of repair other than virtual rebuilding in a stable material would be satisfactory."

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Kowloon District Court were posted today. Hearing will start at 9.30 a.m. on August 24.

On Hong Kong Island, No. 13 In Ku Lane in Western District was declared dangerous while the rear portion of the riding floor over In Ku Lane was liable to become dangerous.

Detailed examination revealed extensive decay in a large number of roof and floor timbers together with principal members of a truss supporting the roof.

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As demolition of this building would remove support to a small extension to a riding floor over In Ku Lane, this was therefore liable to become dangerous.

The other building declared dangerous is No. 3 Shepherd Street where many areas of bulged and defective walls together with seriously decayed timbers were found.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises in Tsim Sha Tsui will be interrupted for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Friday (August 10) to allow leakage tests to be carried out in the area.

The area affected is bounded by Austin Road, Chatham Road, Austin Avenue, Hillwood Road, and Nathan Road between Haiphong Road and Austin Road.

Beginning at 10 p.m. on the same day, water supply to certain premises in Fanling, New Territories, will be cut off until 6 a.m. the next morning.

The temporary stoppage is to enable staff of the Waterworks Office to make a fresh water connection in Jockey Club Road.

Premises along Jockey Club Road between Fanling Cross Road and Fanling Hospital will be affected. These include the Fanling Hospital, Ling Hill, Fanling Police Headquarter and the Commerce and Industry Department at Fanling Lau.

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CHARITY THROUGH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

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Members of the public were today urged to support social welfare projects by buying tickets in the fifth government lottery this year.

At a press conference this morning, Mr. Kai-yin Chau, chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee, said not only would they help in charity work but they also stood the chance of winning a considerable sum of prize money.

He said the committee hoped that more than one million tickets would be sold in this lottery which will be drawn at 10 a.m. on August 25 in the City Hall Concert Hall by four popular HK-TVB girl artistes, Lee Heung-kam, Lisa Wang, Sum Sum, and Margaret Miller.

Immediately after the draw, a half-hour entertainment programme will be provided by HK-TVB artistes. This will be followed by a public auction of "lucky" car numbers, the proceeds of which will go to the Lotteries Fund.

As part of a promotion programme, the four artistes will next Monday (August 13) visit the Ma Tau Chung Centre of the Hong Kong Association for the Protection of Children, which is aided by the Lotteries Fund.

On August 20, they will help sell tickets at a special selling booth in Statue Square.

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TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Mr. Q.W. Lee and Mr. G.M. Sayer have been appointed temporarily to the Executive Council during the absence of Mr. Szeto Wai and Sir Albert Rodrigues.

Mr. Lee's appointment will continue until the end of the month, and Mr. Sayer's until September 27.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.