



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH AREA INSPECTION SCHEME	1
LADY MACLEHOSE OPENS YWCA ELLEN LI CENTRE IN CENTRAL	2
CRACKDOWNS ON DEFECTIVE CARS STEPPED UP	3
PAYMENTS TO PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS OF PAUL LEE COMPANY	4
BUILDING CONTRACTORS URGED TO USE SAFE EQUIPMENT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES	4
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO VISIT VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES IN KOWLOON	5
WATER CUT	5

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977

- 1 -

F.S.D. TO LAUNCH AREA INSPECTION SCHEME

* * * * *

THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS TO LAUNCH LARGE SCALE INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES IN DESIGNATED AREAS IN A BID TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY AT THE ROTARY CLUB EAST LUNCHEON MEETING, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (FIRE PREVENTION), MR. ALAN JONES, SAID THE AREA INSPECTIONS SCHEME WOULD START THIS MONTH.

THE SCHEME, HE SAID, WAS IN ADDITION TO THE BUREAU'S ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, AND TO INSPECTIONS ARISING FROM COMPLAINTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PLAN INVOLVED ANNOUNCING TO THE PUBLIC THE DATE WHEN OFFICERS FROM THE BUREAU WOULD BE CONDUCTING LARGE SCALE INVESTIGATIONS OF VARIOUS PREMISES IN A DESIGNATED AREA, SUCH AS KWUN TONG, CHAI WAN, MONG KOK AND YUEN LONG.

+BY MEANS OF VARIOUS COMMUNICATION MEDIA,+ HE CONTINUED, +WE HOPE AND TRUST THAT EVERYONE WILL BE MADE AWARE OF THE FORTHCOMING VISITS AND TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PREMISES WHETHER IT BE A WORKPLACE, A HOME, A BUILDING OR A COMPLEX WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW WITH REGARD TO SAFETY FROM FIRE.+

MR. JONES FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT ON INSPECTION DAY, THERE WOULD BE SQUADS OF FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL FORMED INTO TEAMS WHO WOULD INSPECT AND CHECK VARIOUS BUILDINGS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

HE SAID THE SQUADS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY LOOKING FOR ANY PROBLEMS WHICH INHIBIT OR RESTRICT AUTHORISED MEANS OF ESCAPE. THEY WOULD ALSO CHECK AND ENSURE +THAT ALL FIRE SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATIONS LOCATED AND FITTED IN ALL TYPES AND SIZES OF PREMISES ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED, ARE NOT OBSTRUCTED AND ARE CLEARLY SEEN+.

+IF WE FIND ANY INFRINGEMENTS OF LAWS WITH REGARD TO MEANS OF ESCAPE AND FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS,+ MR. JONES ADDED, +WE WILL WITHOUT FURTHER ADO TAKE THE NECESSARY LEGAL ACTION TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH THE OFFENDERS.+

HE NOTED THAT IN THE PAST THE BUREAU'S OFFICERS USUALLY ARRIVED IN AN AREA UNANNOUNCED AND PROCEEDED TO INSPECT, INVARIABLY FINDING NUMEROUS IRREGULARITIES AND RESULTING IN FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES BEING ISSUED, AND COURT ACTION BEING TAKEN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH PROCEDURE WAS TIME-CONSUMING AND HAD LITTLE IMPACT AS VERY FEW PEOPLE TOOK NOTICE OF SOMEONE ELSE'S MISFORTUNE.

/WHILE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977

- 2 -

WHILE EMPHASISING THAT IT WAS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE FIRE SAFETY, MR. JONES WARNED : +EITHER THE COMMUNITY FACES UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SAFETY FROM FIRE BY EVERYONE PARTICIPATING, AND MEETING THEIR OBLIGATIONS - OR WE MUST BRACE OURSELVES FOR SOME VERY TRYING AND POSSIBLY HORRIFYING FIRES IN THE FUTURE.+

+THIS SITUATION WITH REGARD TO SAFETY FROM FIRE GROWS MORE COMPLEX EACH DAY, AS HONG KONG BECOMES MORE SOPHISTICATED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID. +PUBLIC APATHY AND LACK OF INTEREST TOWARDS SAFETY MUST BE OVERCOME, OR WE WILL ALL BE AT RISK, WHETHER IT BE AT HOME, AT WORK OR IN BUILDINGS GENERALLY.+

+THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE, FIRE IS NOT SELECTIVE -- IT KILLS, MAIMS AND DESTROYS IRRESPECTIVE OF STATUS, RELIGION, WEALTH, OR EXPECTATIONS,+ MR. JONES SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LADY MACLEHOSE OPENS YWCA ELLEN LI CENTRE
* * * * *

THE YWCA ELLEN LI CENTRE IN CENTRAL WAS THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON OFFICIALLY OPENED BY LADY MACLEHOSE.

IN HER SPEECH, LADY MACLEHOSE SAID THE ACQUISITION OF THESE PREMISES HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$200,000 FROM DR. ELLEN LI, WHO CAME FORWARD WHEN IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT ITSELF IN ITS OLD RENTED PREMISES IN DUDELL STREET.

+ALTHOUGH THIS NEW PREMISES ARE SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN THE OLD ONES, THE SAME RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED FOR BOTH INTEREST GROUPS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING GROUPS,+ SHE SAID.

+I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED IN THIS NEW CENTRE AND THE RECREATIONAL AND STUDY NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE CATERED FOR,+ LADY MACLEHOSE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977.

- 3 -

CRACKDOWNS ON DEFECTIVE CARS STEPPED UP
* * * *

CRACKDOWNS ON DEFECTIVE MOTOR CARS WHICH THREATEN THE SAFETY OF OTHER ROAD USERS AS WELL AS PEDESTRIANS ARE BEING STEPPED UP FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF FIVE NEW MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS RECENTLY.

THE EXAMINERS, THREE BRITONS AND TWO NEW ZEALANDERS, WERE RECRUITED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LATE LAST YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINER, MR. KEN ANDREWS, THREE OF THE RECRUITS HAVE BEEN SECONDED TO THE POLICE TRAFFIC BRANCH AND THE OTHER TWO POSTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

MR. ANDREWS POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF EXAMINERS SECONDED TO THE POLICE TRAFFIC BRANCH NOW STOOD AT SEVEN.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE EXPLAINED, THERE WERE NOW TWO EXAMINERS IN EACH OF THE THREE POLICE TRAFFIC DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, KOWLOON AND ON HONG KONG. HE SAID THE SEVENTH EXAMINER, STATIONED AT THE TRAFFIC HEADQUARTERS, WAS IN OVERALL CHARGE OF THE SIX.

+PREVIOUSLY ONLY ONE EXAMINER WAS ATTACHED TO EACH OF THE THREE DISTRICTS AND THIS HAS PROVED TO BE INADEQUATE BECAUSE THEY HAD TO DO EVERYTHING THEMSELVES SUCH AS CARRYING OUT INSPECTIONS ON VEHICLES, FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTING OFFENDERS IN THE COURTS.+ MR. ANDREWS SAID.

+FROM NOW ON VEHICLES WILL BE CHECKED ON ROADS AS WELL.+

+VEHICLE EXAMINERS WILL CONCENTRATE ON BLATANT CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND USE) REGULATIONS AND DEFECTS WHICH EITHER CAUSED A NUISANCE TO THE PUBLIC OR AFFECTED THE SAFETY OF THE VEHICLES,+ HE POINTED OUT.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A \$4.5 MILLION SEMI-AUTOMATED VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY WILL BE INVITED IN APRIL, THE CENTRE WHICH COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 100,000 SQUARE FEET WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT 80,000 INSPECTIONS WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL.

+IT IS HOPED THAT WHEN THE NEW CENTRE IS COMPLETED IN ABOUT TWO YEARS TIME IT WILL BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE EXISTING ANNUAL INSPECTIONS TO COVER ALL GOODS VEHICLES AND PRIVATE CARS ABOVE A CERTAIN AGE,+ MR. ANDREWS SAID.

+HOWEVER, OUR ULTIMATE AIM IS TO INSPECT EVERY VEHICLE ONCE A YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977

- 4 -

BUILDING CONTRACTORS URGED TO USE SAFE EQUIPMENT
* * * *

BUILDING CONTRACTORS ARE URGED TO HAVE THEIR EQUIPMENT CAREFULLY EXAMINED AND CERTIFIED BY COMPETENT EXAMINERS BEFORE THEY PUT THEM INTO USE AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN MADE THE STATEMENT FOLLOWING A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH ONE CONTRACTOR WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$12,000 FOR THREE OFFENCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF A HOIST WHICH HAD NOT BEEN CERTIFIED TO BE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN CENTRAL.

AS A RESULT OF THIS CARELESSNESS, AN ACCIDENT OCCURRED CAUSING THE DEATH OF A WORKER.

ON INVESTIGATION, IT WAS FOUND THAT THE WIRE ROPE IN QUESTION WAS FRAILED AT A CERTAIN POINT AND DESPITE THIS, THE WIRE ROPE WAS PUT TO USE BEFORE AN EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE EQUIPMENT WAS RECEIVED.

IN THE ACCIDENT, THE WIRE ROPE SNAPPED SUDDENLY STRIKING THE WORKER, AGED 50, ON THE HEAD AND KNOCKING HIM UNCONSCIOUS. ON ARRIVAL AT HOSPITAL, HE WAS CERTIFIED DEAD.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THE CONTRACTOR WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FINED \$7,000 IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE FRAILED WIRE ROPE FOR OPERATING A HOIST, \$2,500 FOR USING A HOIST WITHOUT PRIOR TESTING BY A COMPETENT EXAMINER AND ANOTHER \$2,500 FOR FAILING TO ENSURE THAT THE HOIST WAS NOT USED UNTIL A REPORT HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM A COMPETENT EXAMINER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PAYMENTS TO PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS OF PAUL LEE CO.
* * * *

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS OF PAUL LEE ENGINEERING COMPANY WILL BE PAID IN FULL DURING THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF NEXT WEEK.

AMOUNTS TOTALLING \$870,000 WILL BE PAID TO FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY IN SATISFACTION OF UNPAID WAGES AND SEVERANCE PAY. \$166,000 WILL BE PAID TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MAINLY IN REFUND OF MONEY PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET SOME EMPLOYEES' WAGE CLAIMS.

IT WILL BE SOMETIME BEFORE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IN RESPECT OF THE CLAIMS OF OTHER CREDITORS WHO RANK AS ORDINARY CREDITORS UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977.

- 5 -

DSW TO VISIT VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES

* * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, IS TO VISIT THREE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES IN KOWLOON ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 14) TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THESE ORGANISATIONS AND TO KEEP HIMSELF INFORMED OF THEIR LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

THE THREE ORGANISATIONS TO BE VISITED ARE THE SAU MAU PING TRAINING CENTRE FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN, THE CARITAS HAPPY CLUB FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND THE JORDAN VALLEY LUTHERAN DAY NURSERY.

MR. LEE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. T.P. KHOO, HEAD OF THE REHABILITATION DIVISION AND MRS. EVELYN DOE, HEAD OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

MR. LEE WILL ARRIVE AT THE SAU MAU PING TRAINING CENTRE AT NO.20-21, BLOCK 25, SAU MAU PING ESTATE, GROUND FLOOR, AT 2.45 P.M., THE CARITAS HAPPY CLUB AT BLOCK 18, KWUN TONG ESTATE, AT ABOUT 3.45 P.M. AND THE JORDAN VALLEY LUTHERAN DAY NURSERY AT BLOCK 1, JORDAN VALLEY ESTATE, AT ABOUT 4.30 P.M.

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO USE THE FACILITIES ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE KOWLOON SUB-POOL BEHIND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE NOT LATER THAN 2 P.M.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WATER CUT

* * *

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN NORTH POINT AND WANG TAU HOM WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 14) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY ELECTRIC ROAD, LAU SIN STREET, HING FAT STREET AND THE SEAFRONT, INCLUDING THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY, VICTORIA PARK AND THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY'S POWER STATION.

IN WANG TAU HOM, THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, HENG LAM STREET, FUNG MO STREET, FU MOU STREET AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, INCLUDING BLOCK NOS. 1 TO 23 OF LOK FU ESTATE, THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL AND THE JUNCTION ROAD RESITE AREA.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -