



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1974

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OVER ONE MILLION +DEAD+ LETTERS
HANDLED BY POST OFFICE LAST YEAR

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE TODAY URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL IN ADDRESSING THEIR MAILS TO ENSURE NO DELAYS IN DELIVERY OR EVEN LOSS OF POSTED ITEMS.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE POST OFFICE HAD DEALT WITH SOME 10 MILLION LETTERS, BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN, WHICH WERE INCORRECTLY OR INCOMPLETELY ADDRESSED. OUT OF THESE 10 MILLION LETTERS, 90 PER CENT FINALLY FOUND THEIR WAYS TO THE ADDRESSEES OR BACK TO THEIR SENDERS. THE REST WERE DECLARED AS +DEAD+ IN THE END.

BUT BEFORE A LETTER IS CERTIFIED +DEAD+ IT HAS TO GO THROUGH A NUMBER OF SORTING AND CHECKING PROCESSES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WHEN THE POSTMEN RETURN FROM THEIR ROUNDS THEY PLACE ALL THE UNDELIVERED LETTERS IN THE SPECIALLY ASSIGNED +DEAD LETTER+ BAGS IN THE POST OFFICE. THESE LETTERS ARE THEN TAKEN TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICES -- ONE IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE OTHER IN THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE.

IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ALONE, FIVE MEN ARE ENGAGED IN THE TEDIOUS TASK OF TRACING THE CORRECT ADDRESS OF EACH ADDRESSEE. THE REFERENCE BOOKS THEY USE INCLUDE TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DIRECTORY AND FILES COMPILED BY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE JOB FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

+IT IS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THESE MEN THAT MOST OF THE INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED LETTERS MANAGE TO REACH THE HANDS OF THE ADDRESSEES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON FAILING TO TRACE THE ADDRESSEES, THE MEN IN THE DEAD LETTER SECTION WILL THEN PUT A +RETURN TO SENDER+ CHOP MARK ON LETTERS WHICH CARRY THE SENDERS' ADDRESSES ON THE ENVELOPES.

LETTERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ARE SENT BACK TO THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR FURTHER TREATMENT. BUT FOR LOCAL MAILS, ONE LAST ATTEMPT IS MADE TO TRACE THE SENDERS BEFORE THE LETTERS ARE DECLARED +DEAD+.

THIS JOB IS CARRIED OUT BY THE MEN IN THE RETURN LETTER OFFICE IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE. THEY SLIT OPEN THE ENVELOPES ONE BY ONE TO LOOK FOR THE SENDER'S ADDRESS IN EACH LETTER. IF THEY SUCCEED IN DOING SO, THEY PUT THE LETTER IN AN +UNDELIVERED CORRESPONDENCE+ ENVELOPE AND RETURN IT TO THE SENDER FREE OF CHARGE.

IT IS AFTER ALL EFFORTS HAVE FAILED IN TRACING THE SENDER THAT A LETTER IS FINALLY +CERTIFIED DEAD+. DEAD LETTERS ARE KEPT BY THE POST OFFICE FOR A PERIOD -- 12 MONTHS FOR REGISTERED MAILS AND THREE MONTHS FOR UNREGISTERED MAILS -- BEFORE THEY ARE EVENTUALLY DESTROYED.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW A CLEAR, CORRECT ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE BEFORE MAILING LETTERS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAY OR LOSS. THEY SHOULD ALSO SHOW A RETURN ADDRESS ON THE COVERS TOO, SO THAT UNDELIVERED MAILS CAN BE QUICKLY RETURNED TO THEM.+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO URGED PEOPLE NOT TO USE SMALL AND FLIMSY ENVELOPES OR WRAPPING FOR BULKY LETTERS, THINGS LIKE PHOTOS OR PRINTED MATTER BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BURST OPEN BEFORE THEY CAN BE DELIVERED AND AGAIN CAUSE UNNECESSARY DELAY OR LOSS.

+VERY OFTEN, OUR MEN HAVE TO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME IN SORTING OUT TORN PIECES OF ENVELOPES AND WRAPPING AND REASSEMBLE THEM WITH THE CONTENTS BEFORE DISTRIBUTING THEM TO THE POSTMEN FOR DELIVERY,+ HE SAID.

THE POST OFFICE IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT ALL MAIL IS SAFELY DELIVERED. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC IT PROVIDES A REDIRECTION OF CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESSES.

+TO OBTAIN THIS SERVICE, THEY SHOULD FILL IN A SPECIAL FORM AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES. NO FEE IS CHARGED FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS, BUT A CHARGE WILL BE MADE IF THE SERVICE IS CONTINUED BEYOND THEN.+

AN ENQUIRY SERVICE IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO CHECK ON THE LOSS OR DELAY OF THEIR PARCELS AND REGISTERED MAILS. THE FEE FOR THE ENQUIRY IS \$1 WHICH WILL BE REFUNDED IF THE POST OFFICE IS FOUND TO BE AT FAULT.

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HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS
JULY ISSUE ON SALE
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THE JULY ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS, AVAILABLE FOR SALE TODAY, CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. IT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REVIEW ARTICLES BEING PREPARED ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE ARTICLE SEEKS TO PROVIDE A DOCUMENTATION OF THE SOURCES AND METHODS, HISTORY AND DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENT IN STATISTICS OF MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG.

IT ALSO ANALYSES THE EXTENT OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE DURING THE PERIOD 1971 TO 1973, AND COMPARES THE ECONOMIC CONCENTRATION IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FOUR E.E.C. COUNTRIES.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG AT A PRICE OF \$5.00 PER COPY.

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SPECIAL STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE CENTENARY OF U.P.U.

THREE SPECIAL STAMPS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

THE U.P.U. WHICH FOSTERS THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICES, HAS IN ITS MEMBERSHIP NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. HONG KONG BECAME A MEMBER IN 1878.

THE THREE STAMPS TO BE ISSUED ARE IN HORIZONTAL FORMAT AND WILL BE IN THE 10 CENT, 50 CENT AND 2 DOLLAR DENOMINATIONS. THEY WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR. KAN TAI-KEUNG OF HONG KONG, AND HAVE AS THEIR THEME INTERNATIONAL POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES. HARRISON AND SONS LTD. PRINTED THE STAMPS USING THE LITHOGRAPHIC PROCESS.

SPECIAL FIRST DAY COVERS, ALSO DESIGNED BY MR. KAN, WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1974.

ADVANCED ORDERS FOR SERVICING OF FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, PEDDER STREET= KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE, NATHAN ROAD AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, SALISBURY ROAD. FOR THE ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE NOT LESS THAN TEN ADDRESSED COVERS MUST BE HANDED IN TOGETHER WITH AN ORDER FORM WHICH IS OBTAINABLE AT THE ABOVE POST OFFICES.+

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RADIO ARTISTES TO SELL LOTTERY TICKETS

FOUR POPULAR ARTISTES FROM COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL HELP SELL TICKETS OF THE NINTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY AT STATUE SQUARE ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 16) BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 6 P.M.

THEY ARE MISS TING YING, MISS TSUI PIK, MISS WONG PIK KWUN AND MR. FUNG CHIN PING.

THE DRAW OF WINNING NUMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE AT 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

UP TO 12 NOON TODAY, THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD FOR THE CURRENT LOTTERY REACHED 445,000.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE SALE OF LOTTERY TICKETS BY COMMERCIAL RADIO ARTISTES AT THE STATUE SQUARE ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 16) BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 6 P.M.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1974

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COMMODORE IN CHARGE HONG KONG TAKES SALUTE
AT FIREMEN PASSING OUT PARADE

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THE COMMODORE-IN-CHARGE HONG KONG, J.A.G. EVANS, TODAY TOLD A PASSING OUT PARADE OF FIREMEN THAT THEIR PROFESSION WAS AN HONOURABLE ONE REQUIRING COURAGE, KNOWLEDGE AND DETERMINATION.

ADDRESSING THE SEVEN SQUADS TOTALLING 160 MEN, THE COMMODORE SAID: +THE DUTIES WHICH FIREMEN ARE CALLED UPON TO PERFORM ARE MANY AND VARIED AND, IN MANY CASES, A SERIOUS RISK TO ONE'S OWN LIFE EXISTS.+

IT REQUIRED CONSTANT PRACTICE NOT ONLY TO REMAIN PROFICIENT, BUT ALSO TO ENGENDER THE ALL IMPORTANT TEAM SPIRIT SO THAT, WHEN THE CALL CAME THEY WERE READY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

FIREMEN HAD A HISTORY OF RISING TO ANY OCCASION, COMMODORE EVANS SAID, RISKING THEIR OWN LIVES SO THAT PROPERTY, POSSESSIONS AND OTHER LIVES MAY BE SAVED.

THE COMMODORE SAID EVERY MAN IN THE ROYAL NAVY HAD TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT FIRE AND FIRE FIGHTING, ADDING: +THUS, IN MANY RESPECTS, I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH THESE LAST SIX MONTHS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING.+

COMMODORE EVANS SAID THE MEN'S INSTRUCTORS HAD PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO TRAINING THEM TO PROPERLY PERFORM ALL THE DUTIES THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE CALLED UPON TO DO.

+THE GREATEST TRIBUTE OR COMPLIMENT YOU CAN PAY YOUR INSTRUCTORS IS ALWAYS TO WORK HARD, REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING HERE AND BE A CREDIT TO THE FIRE SERVICE IN WHICH YOU NOW FIND YOURSELVES AS MEMBERS,+ COMMODORE EVANS DECLARED.

+THROUGH THE TRAINING GIVEN, YOU ARE NOW IN THE RESPONSIBLE POSITION WHERE OTHERS WILL ALWAYS BE EXPECTING YOU TO DO THE CORRECT THINGS IN TIME OF STRESS: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE NOW PROFESSIONALS - BE PROUD OF IT AND WORTHY OF YOUR PREDECESSORS.+

THE PARADE WAS THE LARGEST HELD FOR FIREMEN SINCE THE TRAINING SCHOOL OPENED IN 1967. IT WAS COMMANDED BY MR. J.F. GODDEN, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER, AND THE BAND OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. C.C. WOOD, PROVIDED MUSIC.

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**+DON'T YIELD TO INDUCEMENTS OR PRESSURES+
PRISONS OFFICERS TOLD
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR. ALAN BRISTOW, SAID TODAY THAT PRISONS OFFICERS, WHO IN THEIR WORK WILL CONTINUALLY BE IN CONTACT WITH SOME OF THE WORST ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIETY, MUST NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE CORRUPTED BY SUCH CONTACTS.

HE SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT AT TIMES INDUCEMENTS WOULD BE OFFERED OR PRESSURE WOULD BE PUT ON THE OFFICERS TO BREAK THE RULES OR TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO MATTERS WHICH THEY SHOULD REPORT.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED PRISONS OFFICERS THAT IF THEY YIELDED TO ANY SUCH INDUCEMENTS OR PRESSURES THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM COULD BE VERY SERIOUS.

MR. BRISTOW WAS SPEAKING AT THE PASSING OUT PARADE OF 62 ASSISTANT OFFICERS 11 AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

+AS OFFICERS OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENTS YOU HAVE A DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TASK IN OUR CHANGING SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

+THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY PEOPLE ARE SENT TO PRISON OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS,+ HE ADDED, +BUT WHATEVER THE REASONS BEHIND CUSTODIAL SENTENCES IT IS YOU WHO HAVE TO MAKE THE SYSTEM WORK.+

MR. BRISTOW POINTED OUT THAT THE PRISON SERVICE IN HONG KONG WAS AN EXPANDING ONE AND THE NUMBER OF PRISON INSTITUTIONS WAS INCREASING STEADILY.

HE TOLD THE OFFICERS: **+IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO WORK HARD AND TO STUDY YOUR PROFESSION, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTION ARE VERY GOOD AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.+**

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