



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

MOST LABOUR DISPUTES LAST YEAR SETTLED AMICABLY WITH HELP OF LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE	1
FACTORY WORKERS BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS	2
GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE ON KOWLOON RESERVOIR PROJECT	3
FIRE SERVICES WARN AGAINST DANGER OF CARELESS HANDLING OF KEROSENE AND ELECTRIC HEATERS	4
MORE PRISON ACCOMMODATION WILL BECOME AVAILABLE THIS YEAR	5
FACTORY MANAGERMENTS ALERTED AGAINST BOGUS LABOUR OFFICIALS	6

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

- 1 -

WORKERS COLLECT NEARLY \$10 MILLION
IN LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS LAST YEAR
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EMPLOYEES LAST YEAR RECEIVED NEARLY \$10 MILLION AS A RESULT OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS REACHED WITH THE HELP OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THIS COMPARES WITH \$7.5 MILLION IN 1973.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE HEAD OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE, MR. TSUI TIM-FOOK, SAID CONCILIATORS HAD HANDLED 5,878 DISPUTES OF VARIOUS TYPES DURING THE YEAR, COMPARED WITH 4,584 IN 1973. THEY HAD HELPED SOLVE 3,568 OF THEM.

MOST OF THE DISPUTES WERE MINOR ONES INVOLVING INDIVIDUAL GRIEVANCES. THERE WERE ONLY 22 WORK STOPPAGES, AND THE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN THESE DISPUTES WAS 10,708, COMPARED WITH 56,691 IN 54 WORK STOPPAGES IN 1973.

THE \$9,867,181 (\$7,522,270 IN 1973) IN SETTLEMENTS WAS MADE UP OF OUTSTANDING WAGES, PAYMENT IN LIEU OF NOTICE, STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY, BONUSES, AND STATUTORY AND EX-GRATIA SEVERANCE PAY.

MR. TSUI SAID LAST YEAR'S SETTLEMENT RATE OF 60.7 PER CENT WAS ABOUT 15 PER CENT BELOW THE 1973 FIGURE. +BUT THIS WAS EXPECTED,+ HE SAID. +AS THE RESULT OF THE EXPANSION OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, MONETARY CLAIMS UNDER CONTRACTUAL AND CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS ARE NOW REFERRED TO THE TRIBUNAL FOR A DECISION.+

MR. TSUI SAID THAT CONCILIATION HAD BEEN HELPED BY THE INTRODUCTION ON AUGUST 23 LAST YEAR OF SEVERANCE PAY LEGISLATION, WHICH LAYS DOWN MINIMUM PAYMENTS FOR THOSE WHO ARE QUALIFIED IN CASES OF REDUNDANCY.

HE ADDED : +THE PROVISIONS OFFER A LEGAL BASIS FOR THE CLAIMS OF SEVERANCE PAY IN THE EVENT OF PROVED RETRENCHMENT ON REDUNDANCY.

+ALTHOUGH, IN THE PAST, THIS BENEFIT WAS OFTEN PAID VOLUNTARILY, THE LEGISLATION HAS ENABLED THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE SEVERANCE PAY WHERE EMPLOYERS WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN RELUCTANT TO PAY.

+ITS INTRODUCTION HAS GREATLY FACILITATED THE WORK OF THE SERVICE, BECAUSE 50 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR DISPUTES 'IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WITH SEVERANCE PAY.+

MANY EMPLOYERS, IN FACT, MADE PAYMENTS ABOVE THE LEGAL MINIMUM DESPITE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

MR. TSUI SAID THAT THE FIVE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LRS HAD HANDLED 32,227 INQUIRIES AND CONSULTATIONS ABOUT PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT DURING THE YEAR. THE ADVICE GIVEN PREVENTED MANY DISPUTES FROM ARISING OR DETERIORATING.

+THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HAS AS USUAL CONTINUED TO FUNCTION AS AN INDEPENDENT PARTY TO HELP EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES,+ HE ADDED.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

- 2 -

FACTORY WORKERS SERVE MONGKOK RESIDENTS

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A GROUP OF TAI KOK TSUI FACTORY WORKERS WILL ARM THEMSELVES WITH PAINT AND BRUSHES TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO GIVE TWO WORN-OUT BUILDINGS IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD A NEW LOOK.

+THIS IS ONE OF THE VERY RARE OCCASIONS THAT YOUNG FACTORY WORKERS ARE WILLING TO TAKE PART VOLUNTARILY IN THIS KIND OF COMMUNITY SERVICE,+ SAID MR. LAM PING-KUEN, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER OF MONGKOK.

THE MONGKOK CYO INITIATED THE PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TAI KOK TSUI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MONGKOK POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, AND THE DETACHED WORK UNIT OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS.

+THEIR PARTICIPATION SHOWS THAT YOUNG FACTORY WORKERS CAN ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY NO LESS THAN ANY OTHER YOUTH,+ HE SAID.

THE TWO EIGHT-STORY BUILDINGS ARE NOS. 67 AND 69 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD. THEY WILL BE BRIGHTENED UP AS A SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS IN TIME FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. THE GROUP HOPES TO COMPLETE THE JOB ON MONDAY.

THE SAME GROUP LAST MONTH ASSISTED THE MONGKOK COMMUNITY YOUTH OFFICE IN CARRYING OUT A SURVEY ON THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE TAI KOK TSUI INDUSTRIAL AREA. THEY ALSO PLAN A VARIETY SHOW FOR FACTORY WORKERS NEXT MONTH. THE EVENT ORGANISED IN RESPONSE TO THE KEEP HONG KONG DRUG FREE CAMPAIGN, WILL HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE.

+BY INVOLVING YOUNG FACTORY WORKERS IN SUCH USEFUL COMMUNITY SERVICES,+ SAID MR. LAM, +IT IS HOPED TO BUILD UP THEIR SELF-RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE.

+COMMUNITY PROJECTS ARE USEFUL MEANS IN DEVELOPING GOOD CITIZENSHIP IN YOUTH AND CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

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KOWLOON RESERVOIR PROJECT PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY

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WORK ON A FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR, WHICH IS PART OF A SCHEME TO EXTEND FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE HIGH LEVEL AREAS IN NEW KOWLOON EAST, IS HALF COMPLETE.

THE RESERVOIR, SITUATED ON THE HILLSIDE OFF ANDERSON ROAD, WILL HAVE A STORAGE CAPACITY OF TWO MILLION GALLONS. IT WILL HELP MEET FUTURE WATER NEEDS RESULTING FROM DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

THIS INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHUN LEE TSUEN HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATE WHICH WILL PROVIDE HOUSING FOR 106,000 PEOPLE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BRING IN MORE PEOPLE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATERWORKS OFFICE SAID THAT WORK ON THE PROJECT WAS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE.

+EXCAVATION WORK FOR THE RESERVOIR HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED AND FOUNDATION WORK IS NOW IN HAND,+ HE SAID.

GOOD PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF ANDERSON ROAD FROM CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO THE SERVICE RESERVOIR. THIS IS REQUIRED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RESERVOIR.

+IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, THE RESERVOIR SHOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS WILL SOON BE CALLED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMPING STATION AT SHUN LEE TSUEN.

+THE PUMPING STATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +WILL TRANSFER WATER FROM THE EXISTING KWUN TONG HIGH LEVEL FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR TO THE NEW SERVICE RESERVOIR.+

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/4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

- 4 -

HEATERS CAN BE DANGEROUS
IF NOT HANDLED PROPERLY
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PROPER CARE IN USING PORTABLE KEROSENE OR ELECTRIC HEATERS MAY PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF A FIRE.

THIS MESSAGE WAS SPELT OUT BY A FIRE SERVICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY TO WARN PEOPLE AGAINST THE DANGERS OF IMPROPER USE OF KEROSENE OR ELECTRIC HEATERS.

HE GAVE THE WARNING AS MORE HOME WARMING APPLICANCES ARE NOW BEING USED TO BEAT THE WINTER COLD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SEVERAL HEATER FIRES, SOME SERIOUS, OCCURRED EACH WINTER LARGELY BECAUSE PEOPLE DID NOT HANDLE THEIR HEATERS WITH PROPER CARE.

THE RISK OF FIRE COULD BE EASILY AVOIDED IF HOUSEHOLDS TOOK SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS, SUCH AS NEVER FILLING KEROSENE HEATERS WHILE THEY ARE STILL ALIGHT- KEEPING HEATERS IN SUITABLE POSITIONS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND AWAY FROM BEDDING AND CURTAINS OR OTHER INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS- AND NOT PLUGGING TOO MANY ELECTRIC HEATERS INTO ONE OUTLET.

+AND NEVER SHOULD KEROSENE OR ELECTRIC HEATERS BE USED TO DRY CLOTHING,+ HE STRESSED.

HE ALSO URGED HOUSEHOLDERS TO STORE KEROSENE WELL AWAY FROM ANY SOURCE OF HEAT, SUCH AS FIRES OR COOKING STOVES AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE.

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/5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

- 5 -

SOME RELIEF IN PRISON OVERCROWDING IN SIGHT

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MR. PETER WILLIAMS, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TODAY IMPRESSED ON GRADUATING PRISON RECRUITS THAT THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SERVICE DEPENDED ON THE SELF-DISCIPLINE OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM.

HE TOLD THE 108 OFFICERS AT THEIR PASSING OUT PARADE AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AT STANLEY THIS MORNING THAT THEY WOULD ENCOUNTER MANY DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY AS THE HIGHER PRISON POPULATION HAD CREATED A SEVERE STRAIN ON EXISTING PRISONER ACCOMMODATION.

+I KNOW THAT GOVERNMENT AND MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AND EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WILL BE DONE TO SUPPORT YOU,+ HE SAID.

+SOME RELIEF WILL BE FORTHCOMING THIS YEAR,+ HE ADDED, +WHEN THE MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON AT PIK UK FOR 600 PRISONERS BECOMES FULLY OPERATIONAL NEXT MONTH, AND LATER THE MAXIMUM SECURITY TRAINING CENTRE FOR 400 BECOMES AVAILABLE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.+

MR. WILLIAMS COMMENDED THE GRADUATES FOR CHOOSING A CAREER IN THE PRISONS SERVICE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A +CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGE+, AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAD THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS TO SUCCEED.

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/6

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1975

- 6 -

FACTORIES WARNED AGAINST BOGUS LABOUR OFFICIALS
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THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. LAO MOU-CHI, TODAY WARNED FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST BOGUS LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED SEVERAL COMPLAINTS FROM FACTORY PROPRIETORS WHO WERE APPROACHED FOR MONEY BY PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED TO BE OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

+ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ARE FREE,+ MR. LAO STRESSED. +FROM TIME TO TIME, THE DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES PAMPHLETS ON LABOUR LEGISLATION WHICH ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FREE TO THE PUBLIC.+

HE REMINDED FACTORY PROPRIETORS THAT ALL LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CARRIED WITH THEM GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARDS AND WARRANTS WHICH SHOWED THE PHOTOGRAPH AND NAME OF THE HOLDER.

+MEMBERS OF THE FACTORY AND LABOUR INSPECTORATES ARE UNDER INSTRUCTION TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY PRODUCING THEIR WARRANTS WHEN VISITING FACTORIES,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LAO ADVISED FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO ASCERTAIN THE IDENTITY OF THE VISITING OFFICER, AND IF IN DOUBT, THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY REPORT TO THE POLICE.

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