



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, August 10, 1973

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LICENCES FOR WIRELESS TELEVISION STATIONS

The government is to grant two new licences to operate wireless television stations in Hong Kong.

Rediffusion Television Limited will be offered a licence for a dual channel station broadcasting in Chinese and English - Commercial Television Limited a licence for a single channel station broadcasting in Chinese.

Both licences will run for a period of 15 years subject to renewal on December 31, 1980.

The dual language station will provide viewers with an alternative, fully commercial television service, providing entertainment, information and education on two channels as does the present licensee.

The third licensee, the single channel service, will provide a further choice of television programmes in Chinese, only part of which will contain commercial advertising.

From Monday to Friday each week from 9.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. the licensee will provide a series of home studies or minority interest broadcasts which will not include any commercial advertising. The final form of these programmes is subject to further discussion between the government and the licensee.

Subject to good progress with the necessary building work and technical problems, the new dual channel service is expected to come on air within the next few months, and hopefully before the end of this year. The new single channel service is expected to start transmissions about mid-1975.

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A government spokesman said that the decision to award the licences follows the recommendations of a special government committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Jack Cater. This committee examined three tenders, one for the dual channel and two for the single channel service. The tenders closed on May 11, 1973.

Commenting on the government decision, the Secretary to the selection committee said that the committee had taken advice from government departments and the Television Advisory Board. They had also interviewed the applicant companies to give them an opportunity to elaborate on their proposals with the committee.

The committee had considered the ownership, organization, financial resources and technical engineering proposals of the three applicant companies. They had also paid particular attention to the types of programmes the companies had proposed and their ability to maintain the services offered.

He added that the committee had had a difficult task, especially with the two applications for the single channel (Chinese language) service. Both of these applications were well thought out and skilfully presented.

In all their deliberations, the committee's first consideration had been which proposals would best serve the public interest.

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MR. LI NAMED SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Two senior government appointments were announced today.

Mr. F.K. Li is appointed acting Secretary for Social Services, one of the new secretary posts recommended in the McKinsey Report, and Mr. K.W.J. Topley is appointed Director of Social Welfare. Both appointments come into effect at the end of this month.

In his new post, Mr. Li will be responsible for policy and programmes covering education, medical and health services, social welfare, charities, labour and recreation.

Mr. Li, who is 51, has had a distinguished career with the Hong Kong Government serving in a number of departments as deputy head, including Labour and Mines Departments, Commerce and Industry Department and the Secretariat for Home Affairs. He was Deputy Financial Secretary on two occasions and acted as Financial Secretary for a brief period in 1967.

During the course of his career he attended the Administration Staff College at Henley and the Imperial Defence College in London. Mr. Li holds a Master of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Topley, 50, joined the government as a Cadet Officer in 1955. He was promoted to Senior Administrative Officer in 1959 and became Assistant Commissioner for Resettlement in the same year.

In 1963 he was appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary and the following year became Deputy Commissioner of Labour. He joined the Census and Statistics Department in 1967 as Deputy Commissioner and was appointed Commissioner three years later.

Note to Editors: Photographs of Mr. Li and Mr. Topley will be boxed for collection this evening.

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FIVE RURAL LOTS FOR SALE

Five lots of Crown land in the New Territories with a total area of about 86,000 square feet will be put up for auction later this month.

Three of them, located in the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung area, will be offered for sale in the Princess Alexandra Community Centre on August 20 at 11 a.m.

The Tsuen Wan lot measures about 11,700 square feet and is for industrial or godown purposes. One of the lots at Kwai Chung is about 6,200 square feet and is for offensive trade operations, while the other lot, covering an area of 37,400 square feet, is earmarked for a multi-storey car park.

The two remaining lots are located in Tuen Mun (Castle Peak) and will be auctioned in the Yuen Long Town Hall on August 28 at 2.30 p.m.

Both are for industrial or godown development. One has an area of about 14,800 square feet while the other measures about 10,000 square feet.

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MORE AMBULANCE DEPOTS TO BE BUILT

A new ambulance depot is to be built shortly at Smithfield Road to meet the increasing demand for ambulance service in the Pokfulam and Mid-Level areas.

Known as the Mount Davis Ambulance Depot, it will be 10 storeys high with accommodation for four to six ambulances on the ground floor. Living quarters, recreational and dining facilities will be provided on the upper floors.

Construction work is expected to start in October this year and will take about 16 months to complete, at an estimated cost of more than \$2.5 million.

The new depot will be the fifth of its type in Hong Kong, and will be similar to those at Morrison Hill, Ma Tau Chung, Waterloo Road and at Pat Heung in the New Territories.

Plans are also in hand to build another nine at strategically situated points throughout Hong Kong, including four in public housing estates, so as to further reduce the time for conveying patients or victims from the scene of an accident to hospital.

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BUILDING IN CENTRAL CONDEMNED

The Building Authority today declared No. 30 Queen Street, Hong Kong, to be in a dangerous condition and Nos. 24-28 liable to become dangerous.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said frequent inspections of the four-storey pre-war buildings during the last few months showed continuing movement in the exposed flank wall of No. 30.

This, coupled with the presence of a severe bulge and fracture in the kitchen block, could give rise to a collapse, he said.

There were also fractures on the cross walls at the front and rear of Nos. 24-30, and Nos. 24-28 were liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of No. 30.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on the buildings today. Hearing will be in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 14.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO CANADA

The Director of Commerce and Industry announced today that exports of restrained textiles to Canada must be licensed on or before September 4 for shipment by the end of next month.

A special shipment scheme will be operated from September 6 to September 29.

Under the scheme, all quotas not committed by September 4 will be made available to all applicants whether or not they are quota holders, against export licence applications.

Full details are announced in Notice to Exporters: Series 4 (Canada) No. 13/73 which was issued today.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters Series 4 will receive copies of the notices shortly.

Anyone wishing to seek further information is invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:

Mr. D.L.S. Ip - Assistant Trade Officer

Tel. No. 5-247317

Mr. C.K. Lai - Industry Assistant

Tel. No. 5-445666

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HEALTH VISITORS IN CHAI WAN ESTATE

During the month of July, three cases of meningococcal meningitis, were diagnosed; all three were traced back to Chai Wan Estate, the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, said today.

"Meningococcal meningitis occurs sporadically in Hong Kong. Last year, between January and the beginning of August, there were ten cases of the disease, and five deaths. This year, during the corresponding period, there were eight cases and three deaths.

"Because, last July, the three cases were from the same Estate, certain measures were considered necessary to ensure that the disease does not spread to more people, especially children.

"Health visitors were therefore sent to Chai Wan to find out whether there were any sick children with symptoms of meningitis in the area. In addition, health visitors also gave lectures in health education on how to avoid contact with possible meningitis cases.

"These measures at this time are considered important because the new school term is due to begin in two or three weeks, and any suspected case must be diagnosed and treated early so that when the new school term starts, sick children, or carriers of the disease, will not spread it.

"This explains the presence of health visitors in the Estate. It should not be misconstrued. Despite intensified surveillance, no fresh case of the disease has been discovered since the end of July."

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ESCAPE BID FOILED

Six inmates at Stanley Prison are being questioned in connection with an escape plot.

The plot was uncovered during a search today in one of the halls where some 40 inmates are kept, all of whom are appealing against their sentence.

During the search, prison officers discovered that in two cells a bar had been sawn through. A rope, made from strips of canvas was also found together with a piece of metal that had been fashioned into a hook that could have been used to scale the prison walls.

They also seized a number of unauthorised weapons, consisting of pieces of waste metal.

The six inmates, aged between 21 and 34, are serving sentences ranging from five to 10 years for offences of robbery, burglary among others.

The police have been informed and investigations are in progress.

Commenting on the incident, a spokesman for the Prisons Department commended the prisons staff for their "constant vigilance and devotion to duty."

"They prevented what could have been a serious incident," he said.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.