



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, November 22, 1973

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PUBLIC URGED TO AVOID UNDUE WASTE OF ELECTRICITY AND FUEL

Simple Guidelines For Economising Outlined

An appeal to the public to economise and avoid the wasteful use of electricity and petroleum products was made today (Thursday, 22nd November).

Mr. Roy Porter, Chairman of the Oil Distribution Committee, said that with the uncertainty of the oil situation in the world, it is prudent for us to take steps now to avoid wasting fuel.

He asked everyone in Hong Kong, residents, all those in industry and commerce, government service, and public concerns and utilities to co-operate in measures to avoid waste and unnecessary consumption, particularly of electricity.

"We aim to reduce consumption by 10-15% immediately," he said. "We all tend to be wasteful users of electricity and petrol and a reduction of this percentage would not greatly inconvenience many of us."

"By cutting down now on the amount of electricity and fuel we are consuming," he continued, "we can help to save ourselves fuel problems later should supplies drop."

Mr. Porter reaffirmed that there is no shortage of oil in Hong Kong. Stocks remain normal but we cannot rule out the possibility of a reduction of 10-15% in our supplies over the next month or two.

"There is still plenty of kerosene in Hong Kong", Mr. Porter stressed, "and additional supplies expected from China should ensure that stocks are maintained at a high level. We do not therefore expect any shortages of this fuel," he added.

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On recent reports that some people were storing excessive amounts of oil, Mr. Porter said that hoarding was absolutely unnecessary and extremely dangerous. "The Fire Services Department is already taking action against offenders" Mr. Porter said, "and will continue to prosecute people who hoard excessive amounts of fuel."

Mr. Porter said that industry and commerce in Hong Kong had indicated that they would give their full co-operation in achieving a saving in electricity. Most consider that a saving of 10-15% can be achieved without disrupting production. The Government has given assurances that industry will be given high priority for supplies and that jobs will not be jeopardized.

The Government will set a lead in economising. Instructions are being issued to all Heads of Government Departments:

- to appoint an officer to be responsible for supervising and co-ordinating all economy measures;
- to restrict use of government transport by their staff for essential journeys;
- to encourage staff to go about their work by public transport;
- to keep lighting in offices to a minimum and to switch off lights whenever sunlight is sufficient for work;
- to switch off air-conditioners and only to use ventilation when essential;
- to stop all flood-lighting on all government buildings.

There are many simple and easy ways by which householders, commercial firms and factories and workshops can help without seriously affecting convenience and comfort. For example:

By householders

- Switching on lights only when necessary.
- Replacing high-power bulbs with low-power ones.
- Economising with air-conditioners, washing machines, heaters, TV, vacuum cleaners and other electric appliances.

/Limiting

Limiting the use of electric or gas cookers and geysers.

By commercial firms

Switching on neon lights later in the evening and turning them off earlier than at present.

Keeping lighting to a minimum; switching off lighting during lunch hours and whenever sunlight is sufficient for staffs to work.

Switching off display lighting in shop windows.

Economising with air-conditioners and heaters.

By factories and workshops

Keeping lighting to the minimum essential for production and safety.

Turning off lights, fans and machine motors when not required.

For motorists

Cutting out unnecessary journeys and reducing pleasure trips.

Using public transport whenever possible.

Sharing cars when travelling to and from work.

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POLICY REGARDING REHOUSING OF DISASTER VICTIMS CLARIFIED

The Housing Department today explained the policy which is the basis for deciding whether victims of fires or natural disasters in squatter areas are eligible for public housing or a site in a Licensed Area.

A spokesman said there had been a number of enquiries about the matter since last Thursday's fire in Kowloon Bay.

Establishing eligibility, he said, was often a complicated business, but generally speaking public housing was offered to people who were living in structures recorded during the 1964 general survey or who had Licensed Area permits.

Illegal squatters who were genuine victims of a fire were offered new sites in a Licensed Area. Most of the Kowloon Bay disaster people fell into this category.

The spokesman said that confusion often arose after a big blaze when impostors mingled with fire victims in the hope of getting a new site or cash relief.

When this sort of situation arose it was necessary to conduct a site identity exercise like the one on Wednesday so that genuine cases could point out on the ground where their former homes had stood. In this way many impostors were weeded out.

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CAREERS EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW

Note to Editors: Careers '74 the Labour Department's second annual Careers Exhibition begins tomorrow (Friday) in the Chinese Manufacturers' Association pavilion at the CMA Fair Ground.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, Dr. Rayson Huang, will officially open the exhibition at 3.00 p.m. An introductory speech will be given by the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price.

The Exhibition - by far the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong - occupies about 15,000 square feet of the Exhibition Pavilion. A total of some 30 exhibitors from the industrial, commercial and government sectors will show comprehensive information on well over 100 different careers, using models, films, working machinery, and a huge range of other display materials.

Careers '74 - which resulted from the very strong response by students, teachers, parents and employers to the first exhibition of the Labour Department's Youth Employment Advisory Service in the City Hall late last year - will be open every day from 10.00 in the morning to 7.00 in the evening until Sunday, December 2.

Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the event. Refreshments will be serve afterwards.

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TEMPORARY FESTIVAL POST OFFICE

A temporary post office will be set up in the City Hall Exhibition Hall during the Festival of Hong Kong Stamps Exhibition to be held from November 24 to December 2.

Business hours will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including Sundays. Post office business will be confined to the sales of postage stamps and the acceptance of registered articles.

A "hand back" service will also be provided whereby commemorative covers bearing local addresses will be accepted over the post office counter, date-stamped immediately and handed back to the person presenting them.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN STATUE SQUARE

In connection with Hong Kong Festival activities in Statue Square on Saturday (November 24), the Chater Road 'pedestrian precinct' will be closed to vehicular traffic at 3 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

Chater Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic between the Mandarin Hotel and Jackson Road from 3 p.m. on Saturday to midnight on Sunday.

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SPECIAL TRAINS FOR AIR SHOW

Special passenger trains have been arranged to run between Kowloon and Fanling this Sunday (November 25) to enable the public to attend the air display at Sek Kong Airfield.

Four special up-trains will leave Kowloon at 9.49 a.m., 11.17 a.m., 12.26 p.m. and 3.38 p.m. They will pick up passengers en route at the Mong Kok, Sha Tin, University, Tai Po Kau and Tai Po Market stations.

Two other up-trains will leave Kowloon at 4.26 p.m. and 5.38 p.m., but they will not be picking up passengers en route.

Six down-trains will leave Fanling at 11.06 a.m., 12.36 p.m., 1.47 p.m., 4.52 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6.26 p.m., and they will be stopping at the various stations en route.

Additional passenger trains will also run in the evening if traffic warrants.

The air display at Sek Kong is one of the programmes of the Festival of Hong Kong, and is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

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COFFEE IMPORTS LICENCE NO LONGER NECESSARY

Coffee importers need no longer apply for import licences to cover coffee imports into Hong Kong, Mr. M.D. Sargant, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry announced today.

The Import (Coffee) Regulations, he explained, had been revoked on the advice of the Executive Council in view of recent modifications to the International Coffee Agreement.

Mr. Sargant reminded coffee exporters, however, that export licences were still required for processed coffee - namely roasted and soluble coffee - for health and safety purposes, under the Import and Export (General) Regulations.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.