



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1976

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CONTROL ON SOFT DRUGS TO BE TIGHTENED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING NEW LEGISLATION AIMED AT TIGHTENING THE CONTROL OF CERTAIN PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (COMMONLY KNOWN AS SOFT DRUGS) AND DETAINING THE TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS OF PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SERIOUS DRUG OFFENCES.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR. RAFAEL HUI, DISCLOSED THIS TODAY (MONDAY) IN A TALK AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF VICTORIA.

MR. HUI SAID THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE SOLE ADVISORY BODY TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICIES, HAD ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO TIGHTEN THE CONTROL OF SOME PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES THAT MIGHT BE ABUSED, OR ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED AND SMUGGLED ABROAD ON A LARGE SCALE FOR TRAFFICKING.

AT PRESENT, HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WERE CONTROLLED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE WHICH IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH MALPRACTICES ON THE PART OF DEALERS AND DISPENSARIES, AND DOES NOT, ON THE WHOLE, PROVIDE PARTICULARLY HARSH PUNISHMENT.

HE REVEALED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS NOW BEING GIVEN TO INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, SOME OF THESE SUBSTANCES IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. RELEVANT OFFENCES WOULD THEN BE SIMILARLY PUNISHED AS IF THEY WERE CONCERNED WITH HEROIN AND OPIUM.

MR. HUI SAID ALTHOUGH HEROIN WAS STILL THE MAIN DRUG OF ABUSE IN HONG KONG AT PRESENT AND +SOFT DRUGS+ WERE NOT YET A PROBLEM, NO ONE KNEW WHETHER THE ABUSE OF +SOFT DRUGS+ WOULD BECOME WIDESPREAD OR NOT IN FUTURE.

+TIMELY PREVENTIVE ACTION HAS TO BE TAKEN NOW IN ORDER TO FORESTALL SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, IF IT EVER OCCURS,+ HE SAID.

INITIALLY, HE ADDED, TWO PARTICULAR TYPES OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WOULD BE CONSIDERED. ONE WAS AMPHETAMINES WHICH WERE STIMULANTS AND COULD, IF ABUSED REPEATEDLY, LEAD TO LOSS OF APPETITE, DELUSIONS AND ORGANIC DAMAGE. THE OTHER WAS METHAQUOLONE, OR +MANDRAX+, A TRANQUILIZER WHICH COULD CAUSE ADDICTION, CONFUSION, DIZZINESS AND ORGANIC DAMAGE IF TAKEN EXCESSIVELY OVER A PERIOD.

ON THE DETENTION OF TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS OF PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SERIOUS DRUG OFFENCES, MR. HUI SAID, THE ADVANTAGES WERE OBVIOUS.

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HE SAID IT WOULD HELP PREVENT THE SUBJECT FROM FLEEING HONG KONG, PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF FURTHER OFFENCES ARRANGED DURING TRIPS ABROAD, DISRUPT HIS TRAFFICKING PATTERNS AND AFFECT HIS CREDIBILITY WITH BOTH HIS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONTACTS.

+THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION OF SECTION 17 OF THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, WHEREBY A MAGISTRATE MAY REQUIRE THE SURRENDER OF TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS OF THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION, HAD BEEN WELL-DEMONSTRATED. THERE ARE GROUNDS TO INCLUDE SIMILAR PROVISIONS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE AS WELL,+ HE SAID.

ONE OF THE REASONS GIVEN BY MR. HUI FOR THE PROPOSED NEW MEASURE WAS THAT MANY DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAD STOPPED THE USUAL PRACTICE OF BULK IMPORTS DUE TO TOUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND WERE NOW USING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SMALL-TIME DRUG COURIERS TRAVELLING IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG.

HE ADDED THAT WHILST IT HAD BEEN COMMONLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY COUNTRIES CONCERNED THAT HONG KONG WAS NO LONGER THE CENTRE OF EXPORT AND RE-EXPORT IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING, THERE REMAINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT HONG KONG, WITH ITS MINIMAL CURRENCY CONTROL, SOPHISTICATED FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, MIGHT BE USED AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL BASE FOR SOME TRAFFICKING NETWORKS.

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TWO-WEEK PROGRAMME FOR THE AGED IN LAM TIN

A TWO-WEEK PROGRAMME HAS BEEN ORGANISED FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE LAM TIN DISTRICT STARTING FROM OCTOBER 15.

THE PROGRAMME, ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES IN LAM TIN, THE LAM TIN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL AND THE HONG KONG FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, INCLUDE A SEMINAR ON HEALTH AND CARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A WORKSHOP ON SERVICES FOR THE AGED, ESSAY AND SLOGAN CONTESTS, A VARIETY SHOW AND AN OUTING TO THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME IS A HEALTH CONTEST AMONG SOME 300 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT WHERE EIGHT CLINICS HAVE OFFERED TO GIVE MEDICAL CHECK-UPS TO THE PARTICIPANTS AT \$3 EACH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID THAT THE AIM OF THE PROGRAMME WAS TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF THE OLD PEOPLE AND TO EXPLORE WAYS OF PROVIDING MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICES FOR THEM.

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GROWTH OF H.K.'S EXPORTS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S ANNUAL EXPORTS HAVE GROWN BY FOUR-AND-A-HALF TIMES IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS FIRST SET UP IN 1966.

SPEAKING AT A RECEPTION TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AT ITS OFFICE IN CONNAUGHT CENTRE THIS AFTERNOON, SIR MURRAY SAID: +ALL OF US ARE AWARE OF THE UNIQUE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPEND ON THE GROWTH OF OUR EXPORTS.

+TO CONTINUE TO GROW WE MUST SEEK NEW MARKETS AND DEVELOP AND PROMOTE NEW PRODUCTS,+ SAID THE GOVERNOR.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+OUR ANNUAL EXPORTS HAVE GROWN BY FOUR AND A HALF TIMES IN THE 10 YEARS SINCE THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS FIRST SET UP IN 1966. I AM SURE THAT THE T.D.C. WOULD BE THE FIRST TO INSIST THAT THE CREDIT GOES TO THE ENTERPRISE AND INGENUITY AND DRIVE OF OUR EXPORTERS. BUT THE T.D.C. TOO HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART, AND WE ARE HERE TO RECORD OUR THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS ON WHAT IT HAS DONE AND WILL DO FOR HONG KONG.

+FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS, THE T.D.C. HAS GROWN INTO WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC TRADE PROMOTION BODIES IN THE WORLD. HAVING ATTENDED THE ANNUAL HONG KONG READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS THE FASHION PRESENTATIONS LAST YEAR IN LONDON AND PARIS, I CAN TESTIFY TO THE EFFICIENCY AND EXPERTISE WITH WHICH THE STAFF OF THE T.D.C. GO ABOUT THEIR WORK.

+ALL OF US ARE AWARE OF THE UNIQUE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPEND ON THE GROWTH OF OUR EXPORTS. TO CONTINUE TO GROW WE MUST SEEK NEW MARKETS AND DEVELOP AND PROMOTE NEW PRODUCTS. I AM SURE THE T.D.C. WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN OUR FUTURE EXPANSION.

+I ASK YOU TO JOIN IN A TOAST TO THE T.D.C. ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY.+

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OVER 107,800 AMBULANCE CALLS IN NINE MONTHS

THE NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED BY THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN RISING STEADILY.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY, THE COMMAND RESPONDED TO 107,841 CALLS DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 400 A DAY. THE FIGURE INCLUDES 87,708 EMERGENCY CALLS.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 131,125 PATIENTS WERE CARRIED IN THE COMMAND'S AMBULANCES, OF WHICH 92,638 WERE EMERGENCY CASES.

COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR THE NUMBER OF AMBULANCE CALLS ROSE BY NEARLY 15 PER CENT AND THE RATE OF THE PATIENTS CARRIED WENT UP BY 16.5 PER CENT.

KOWLOON, AS USUAL, HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CALLS - 51,457, FOLLOWED BY HONG KONG WITH 34,067 AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH 22,317.

THE COMMAND, WHICH HAS AN ESTABLISHMENT OF 560 AND OPERATES A FLEET OF 99 AMBULANCES, IS NOW SEVERELY STRETCHED TO COPE WITH THE DEMAND.

THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO INCREASE THE AMBULANCE FLEET, RECRUIT ADDITIONAL STAFF AND BUILD MORE DEPOTS.

CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STOREY AMBULANCE STATION AT KWAI CHUNG IS NOW UNDERWAY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID 1977.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 10 AMBULANCE DEPOTS AND STATIONS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, AND MORE ARE PLANNED FOR YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN, TSING YI, CHEUNG SHA WAN, NGAU CHI WAN, ABERDEEN AND QUARRY BAY.

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PROSECUTIONS AGAINST FACTORY PROPRIETORS

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PROSECUTIONS AGAINST FACTORY PROPRIETORS FOR BREACH OF LABOUR LAWS TOTALLED 349 IN AUGUST.

THESE INVOLVED EITHER CONTRAVENTION OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS OR FAILURE TO OBSERVE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS. OFFENDERS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$190,500.

IN THE FIRST CATEGORY, THE MOST COMMON OFFENCES DETECTED WERE THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN OUTSIDE THEIR PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT. A TOTAL OF 86 SUCH CASES, WITH FINES AMOUNTING TO \$38,950, WERE DEALT WITH BY THE COURTS DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

IN THE SECOND CATEGORY, THE MOST COMMON OFFENCES WERE OPERATING UNFENCED MACHINERY AND OPERATING UNREGISTERED INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS. THEY NUMBERED 15 CASES EACH AND THEIR TOTAL FINES AMOUNTED TO \$10,450 AND \$7,150 RESPECTIVELY.

COMMENTING ON THE PROSECUTIONS, A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +OUR INSPECTORATE KEEP A CONSTANT WATCH OVER WORKING CONDITIONS IN FACTORIES BY PAYING REGULAR VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

+THIS IS NECESSARY IN A HIGHLY INDUSTRIALISED CITY LIKE HONG KONG IF WE ARE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY OF WORKERS.

+THE PROSECUTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT NOT SO MUCH TO PENALISE THE PROPRIETORS AS TO ACT AS A DETERRANT AGAINST A REPETITION OF SUCH OFFENCES IN FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

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TRAFFIC RE-ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 15), URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HAMMER HILL ROAD BETWEEN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHOI HUNG ROAD, INCLUDING THE CHOI HUNG ROUNDABOUT, TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS AND TO LOAD OR UNLOAD GOODS AT ALL TIMES WITHIN THE AREA.

ALSO STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 15), YI LUN STREET IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHWESTBOUND TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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