



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, August 17, 1973

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IMPROVEMENT TO MACAU FERRY WHARF

The Macau Ferry Terminal is to be expanded as an interim measure to cope with the large number of travellers using the terminal.

In the meantime, a long-term plan is being considered to ease the overcrowding at the terminal building.

In the short term development, additional bays will be constructed at the eastern end of the complex and the existing eastern section will be expanded northwards to provide additional public spaces, office accommodation and toilets.

The southern side of this section of the complex has also been replanned to give more covered waiting space for departing passengers, enabling them to move more rapidly through the terminal.

The passenger processing areas, where travellers await document checks, will be air-conditioned to make the wait more pleasant.

A new transformer house will also be built to cater for the increased demand in electrical loading.

Work is expected to begin in October, and will take about four months to complete.

On completion, the present overcrowding at the Macau Ferry Terminal should be relieved considerably.

/Commenting on

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Commenting on the present terminal, a Marine Department spokesman said it was originally designed to cope with 500,000 passengers a year.

But the number of passengers passing through the terminal had increased from two million in 1968 to more than 3.5 million in 1972 and "it is expected that the figure will rise to as high as 5.5 million by 1977," he said.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE

Note to Editors: Seventeen Assistant Immigration Officers will take part in a passing-out parade to be held at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Parade Ground on Saturday (18th) morning.

The Secretary for Security, Mr. G.P. Lloyd, will inspect and address the parade.

You are invited to have the event covered. The parade will take place at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Parade Ground, Sports Road, Happy Valley at 9.30 a.m.

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FIRST CONFERENCE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hong Kong's first conference on special education opens next Tuesday (August 21) to discuss the latest trends in this field.

The conference, to be held in the Grantham College of Education, will be opened by Mr. J. Canning, Director of Education. About 500 people will attend.

"The main aim of the conference is to make known to teachers in special schools and special classes, heads of government primary schools, doctors, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and staff of rehabilitation agencies the latest trends in special education," Miss Elizabeth Rowe, Senior Education Officer (Special Education) said today.

"It will also provide an opportunity for those involved to discuss these modern trends in relation to various disciplines of rehabilitation in a local setting," she added.

Apart from Mr. Canning and Miss Rowe, there will be five other speakers. They are Professor S.L. Kong, Professor and Director of Education, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Mrs. Winnie M.H. Chan, Inspector (Education of Slow-Learning Children); Professor G.M. Kneebone, Professor of Paediatrics, University of Hong Kong; Mrs. Gennie Lee, Executive Secretary of the Boys and Girls Clubs Association; and Mr. N.M. Ho, Deputy Director of Education, who will give the closing address.

/The conference

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The conference is being organised by the Special Education Section of the Education Department. At the same time, the section is holding a two-day exhibition of special teaching aids and techniques.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the exhibition at the college where they will see a classroom setting for slow-learning children.

The exhibits will include remedial and specially adapted material designed for children with learning problems related to visual, auditory, physical and speech handicaps.

The exhibition will also show assessment and therapeutic materials for children with learning difficulties and graded material in relation to curriculum developments in special education.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the conference and exhibition on August 21 at the Grantham College of Education, Gascoigne Road, Kowloon. The conference begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last until 5 p.m.

For your information, Miss Rowe will speak on "Modern Trends in Special Education", Professor Kong on "New Developments in Educational Research", Mrs. Chan on "Curriculum Development in Special Education", Professor Kneehone on "Modern Trends in Paediatrics", and Mrs. Lee on "Problems of Youth".

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TWO NEW FERRY SERVICES ON TRIAL BASIS

Hong Kong's commuters may soon be taking to the water to escape increasing traffic congestion on land -- at least that's the plan of the Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Brian Wilson, announced today that the company will begin a trial service "in the next month or so" from Mei Foo Sun Chuen to Central using its new 60-foot air conditioned launches.

"A similar trial service may be provided in a few months time from Wah Fu to Central," he added.

Mr. Wilson said the Mei Foo service was likely to be very popular, but he pointed out that bigger vessels couldn't be considered until the demand was established and proper landing berths provided.

At weekends, he said, these launches would be available for recreational services and "we hope they can replace the junks and sampans at present improperly used in the New Territories for moving holiday-makers to outlying spots."

A survey to determine the origin and destination of these trips is now being considered; and will form the basis of the proposed new recreational services.

/Mr. Wilson

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Mr. Wilson was speaking today at the launching of the Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company's sixth triple decker ferry, the Man Chi.

He described the launching of another triple decker as a "substantial step towards meeting the increasing demands for passenger ferries for commuter and recreational traffic."

The new ferry is expected to be used on the "booming" Central to Kwun Tong commuter service on weekdays, and provide additional capacity for the Central to Silvermine Bay or Cheung Chau services at weekends and holidays.

Mr. Wilson said a forward programme for providing new piers had been drawn up towards the end of last year -- including second piers at North Point and Kwun Tong, and new ones at Hung Hom and Sam Ka Tsuen.

"Most of them are now in the public works programme but unfortunately it looks as if it won't be possible to complete them as early as we could have wished."

He explained that this was not through "lack of trying," but rather due to the lengthy procedures involved in implementing the programme.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Wilson's speech are boxed for collection.

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ANTI-LITTER REGULATIONS PUBLISHED

Amended regulations concerning the cleansing of litter in common parts of buildings are published in today's gazette.

The Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances (New Territories) (Amendment) Regulations 1973 were made under the Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance in support to the current "Clean Our Buildings" Campaign.

Previously, a notice could be served on the person responsible for the management or cleansing of a building requiring him to remove litter from certain common parts of the building.

The amended regulations extend this provision to other common parts of the building, and stipulate that the notice may be served either on the person responsible for the management or cleansing of the building or on the owner or occupier.

The person on whom the notice is served will be required to clean, and keep clean for a period not exceeding 30 days, the area of the building specified in the notice.

If the notice is not complied with, the Director of Urban Services may **order** the necessary work to be undertaken and recover the expenses.

The regulations also make it an offence for an owner to allow his dog to foul a common part of a building, a street or public place even though at the time of the offence his dog was in the charge of an employee or a member of his family.

Discharging of pigwash in public places is also an offence.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH POINT AND SHAUKIWAN

Pak Fuk Road in North Point will soon be extended by about 900 feet to a point at the former Braemar Terrace where a large building site is being developed.

Beginning from the Chinese Methodist School, the new road will lead up to the western boundary of the site.

It will be a 24-foot-wide bituminous carriageway, with eight-foot-wide concrete footpaths on both sides.

In addition to the road work, a 12-inch diameter sewer will be extended to serve the building development. Storm water drains will also be built for surface water disposal.

Construction work is expected to begin next month, and will take about eight months to complete.

Another road on Hong Kong Island to be extended is A Kung Ngam Road in Shau Kei Wan to serve future industrial and residential development in the area.

The road will be extended northwards by about 1,200 feet to join Shau Kei Wan Main Street East near the old swimming pavilion of the South China Athletics Association.

On completion, the road will provide a carriageway of 24 to 32 feet in width. There will be footpaths of eight or nine feet in width on both sides. A drainage system will be built in conjunction with road works.

Work is expected to start in October, and take about 18 months to complete.

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ARCHERY CONTEST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Fifty teenagers aged between 11 and 14 years will take part in an archery contest on Monday (August 20).

The contest, organised by the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre, will be held at the Royal Hong Kong Police target range at Smugglers Ridge.

Another activity the centre is conducting is a course in which young people are taught to build canoes using fibreglass. Two classes are being held, one in the morning on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and another in the evening on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

An expedition training course teaching map reading, first aid, camping techniques and other related outdoor activities has just ended.

The projects are part of the summer youth programme to give young people a choice of outdoor activities in which they can develop new skills, meet new friends and build up their confidence.

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FACTORIES FINED FOR EMITTING EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE

The proprietors of three factories were fined a total of \$3,300 in North Kowloon Magistracy today for offences under the Clean Air Ordinance.

Two of the factories - the Meyer Aluminium Limited and the Hong Kong Rolling Mills Ltd. - with two previous convictions each, were fined \$1,500 and \$1,200 respectively.

The other factory fined was the Atlantic Enamel Factory (HK) Ltd. of Tsuen Wan, the first offender since Tsuen Wan was declared a smoke control zone on May 15 this year. The factory was fined \$600.

All these factories were found guilty of emitting dark smoke exceeding the permitted period within a Smoke Control Area.

Under the Clean Air Ordinance, it is an offence for an occupier of any premises within a smoke control area to operate any furnace, oven, or chimney in such a manner that dark smoke is emitted for more than six minutes in any period of four hours or for more than three minutes continuously at any one time.

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COFFEE QUOTA ALLOCATED FOR RE-EXPORT

The Commerce and Industry Department announced today that it was prepared to approve applications to import coffee for re-export purposes from non-member countries of the International Coffee Agreement.

A quota of 150,000 kilograms has been allocated for this purpose for the next coffee year, starting October 1974.

A spokesman for the department said the quota would be allocated in consignments of 30,000 kilograms per application.

Successful applications will be balloted for on the basis of applications received by noon on Monday, September 17.

There will be no change in the procedure in respect of coffee imported from member countries.

During the current coffee year -- October 1, 1972 to September 30, 1973 -- the Commerce and Industry Department had only approved applications to import coffee from non-member countries for local consumption.

The spokesman said a further announcement regarding imports of coffee from non-member countries for the coming coffee year would be made as soon as information was received.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.