



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, September 11, 1972

MAJOR POLLUTION INVESTIGATION FOR NEW TERRITORIES

The Government is to appoint a firm of consulting engineers to undertake a detailed investigation into the environmental aspects of stream pollution in the New Territories.

The consultants appointed for the task, Binnie and Partners, are already engaged by the Water Authority on an investigation into the extent and causes of stream pollution in the Yuen Long District.

This investigation has confirmed the seriousness of the pollution problem and substantial sections of streams have been found to be "grossly polluted" with a total absence of oxygen.

Their report, which will outline the measures necessary to enable a potable supply of water to be abstracted from the streams in the area during the summer months, will be submitted to the Water Authority within a month or so.

The Government, on the advice of the Advisory Committee On Environmental Pollution On Land and Water, has now decided that the consultants should carry out a full-scale investigation on stream pollution in the New Territories, including the islands, and prepare a comprehensive report with particular regard to five main points:-

- * The location and quantification of sources of pollution in the New Territories;

/* Details

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 2 -

- * Details of present facilities for the collection and disposal of solid and liquid wastes in the area, and suggestions on their improvement;
- * Carry out the necessary surveys to reach estimates of the quantities and nature of the solid and liquid wastes currently entering the streams;
- * Consider alternative methods and make appropriate recommendations on improving the conditions of streams, with the object of eliminating unsightly solids and ensuring that the stream water will contain some dissolved oxygen;
- * Advise on the possible consequences of permitting existing pollution of the streams to continue.

In preparing the report, consideration will be given to the Government's current policy on land use; industrial and agricultural development; and the social, economical and administrative circumstances prevailing in Hong Kong.

The consultants will also make recommendations on the drafting of regulations under the proposed new Bill for the Control and Treatment of Trade Effluents in order to maintain the recommended improved standard, and to consider the results which will arise from this Bill.

The proposed investigation is expected to begin within the next two months, and the consultants hope to complete the report by July of next year. The estimated cost of the project is \$500,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 3 -

MORE CHOLERA SAMPLES DETECTED

Four cholera-positive samples were discovered by the Medical and Health Department's Institute of Pathology during routine culture of nightsoil collected between last Thursday night and Friday morning.

The samples came from the Happy Valley and Wan Chai areas, and the germs were identified as cholera-positive specimens on Saturday.

Other samples of nightsoil in the same areas collected between Saturday night and Sunday morning were laboratory-tested earlier today, and two samples were found to contain cholera germs.

Further investigation is continuing.

"No cholera cases have occurred," said Dr. J.K. Craig, Acting Director of Medical and Health Services, "but this does highlight the need to maintain the strictest personal and environmental hygiene, especially during the cholera season.

"We will continue to keep the public informed whenever our routine examination of nightsoil turns up anything unusual."

The latest cholera-positive samples are the third series to be discovered during routine examinations of nightsoil this summer. The earlier samples were found in June and July, and they came from nightsoil collected in the Shau Kei Wan area.

Dr. Craig repeated warnings about the need to protect food and water from contamination to prevent an outbreak of cholera during the remainder of the hot weather this year.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 4 -

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY STILL ANXIOUS TO GET LANDSLIDE EVIDENCE

Sixteen members of the public have appeared before the Commission of Inquiry into the June rainstorm disasters to give evidence on the Po Shan Road landslides.

In addition, 22 people have submitted statements to the Commission as exhibits.

The hearing on the Po Shan Road disaster began at the end of July.

The Counsel to the Commission, Mr. R.G. Penlington, has now written to these 38 people asking them if they have anything further to add to their evidence or statements.

"We are most anxious also to hear from any other members of the public who may have information of any sort connected with events before, during or after the landslides at Po Shan Road," he said.

They are invited to write or ring Mr. Penlington on H-95601.

Hearings of the Commission have been adjourned until October 4 to enable evidence to be prepared by overseas experts.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 5 -

LABOUR DEPARTMENT WARNS ABOUT BOGUS OFFICIALS

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. David Lin Huo-fu today warned factory proprietors to be on their guard against people who claimed to be Labour Department officers and asked for money.

Mr. Lin said that groups of "unscrupulous people" had recently posed as inspectors of the department and sought money from factory managements in Kowloon, particularly in the Sham Shui Po and Cheung Sha Wan areas, for advertisements in publications allegedly produced by the department.

He added that the department was very concerned about this and believed that these people had managed to deceive a large number of factory proprietors.

Mr. Lin said that in May this year a man was arrested and was eventually sentenced to serve in a training centre of the Prisons Department. In a second case of impersonation which occurred early last month, police officers were alerted and another man was arrested when he called at the factory for payment. He was subsequently sentenced to nine months imprisonment.

Last week a third case was reported to the department. However no arrest was made because the impersonator failed to show up.

"No Labour Department officer is authorised to solicit money for any purpose whatsoever and no publication issued by the Labour Department carries any advertisements," Mr. Lin stressed.

/He reminded

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 6 -

He reminded factory proprietors that every inspector of the department carried with him or her a warrant card which showed a photograph of the holder together with the holder's name and signature. They should ascertain the identity of the visiting officer by asking for the warrant card. Mr. Lin urged any proprietor who is asked for money by anyone purporting to be a member of the Labour Department to report the matter immediately to the nearest police station or to the Senior Labour Officer (Industry), telephone number K-688842.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE REFUSE COLLECTING VEHICLES FOR THE U.S.D.

The Urban Services Department is to get eight more compaction refuse collecting vehicles.

The vans, costing about \$125,000 each, are capable of holding 40 cubic yards of refuse.

The latest addition will bring to 118 the strength of the U.S.D. fleet of refuse vans.

Delivery of the vehicles is expected to take place some time next year.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 7 -

BEAUTIFYING HONG KONG WITH PALM TREES

Palm trees are being planted along Waterfront Road on Hong Kong Island as part of the Urban Services Department's plan to beautify the city.

The trees are being planted along the median strip on the section from Cotton Tree Drive to the Cross Harbour Tunnel.

An Urban Services Department spokesman said palm trees have been chosen because they are well suited to Hong Kong's climate, and they also serve an ornamental purpose.

The planting is expected to be completed some time this week.

Palm trees are tropical plants rarely found in Hong Kong. The ones being planted have been brought from South China.

The trees have also been planted in Kowloon in the open area adjacent to the flyover spanning Gascoigne Road.

There are plans to plant them along Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kwun Tong Road, Gascoigne Road and at the junction of Argyle Street and Waterloo Road.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 8 -

TRAINEES TO DONATE BLOOD

A team from the Hong Kong Red Cross will tomorrow call at the Social Welfare Department's Kwun Tong Hostel in response to a request from trainees resident there who want to donate blood.

Trainees at the hostel go out to work in the daytime, but are required by the courts to live at the hostel under active SWD supervision for a certain time as a result of earlier contraventions of the law. They are aged between 16 and 21.

Mr. Mak Wing-hong, Principal Social Welfare Officer (Correctional Institutions), says their decision to donate blood stems from a recent visit to the hostel by an official of the Hong Kong Red Cross Society.

He told the boys there was a serious shortage of blood in Hong Kong, and the Society was exploring every avenue to maintain its supply to hospitals, both government and private, to help them meet emergency needs.

"The trainees reacted immediately with an offer to donate blood from among themselves," Mr. Mak recalls. "They asked that a collection unit call on them any evening after 8 o'clock, because they would not be free earlier.

"I think this is a very public-spirited gesture, and I hope it will be followed by similar contributions from other trainees."

Members of the staff of the hostel will also donate blood tomorrow night.

.....

Note to editors: You are invited to have the occasion covered. The donations will begin at the hostel assembly room in Kwun Tong at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 9 -

VISIT TO ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOME BY MRS ROWE

Mrs. G.T. Rowe, wife of the Director of Social Welfare, spent more than an hour this morning visiting the St. Christopher's Home in Tai Po.

She was accompanied by Mrs. Evelyn Doe, Principal Social Welfare Officer, West Kowloon District Office.

They were met by the Rev. Chiu Lin-chun, superintendent of the home, who introduced them to members of the staff and showed them around

The home was founded in 1935. It was previously known as the Tai Po Rural Home and Orphanage until 1953 when the name was changed to St. Christopher's Home.

Located at the 13½ milestone, Tai Po, it takes in 340 children from birth up to 18.

Except for infants and toddlers who belong to the babies' section, which was opened in March 1963, the rest of the children are placed in individual "home units." Basic primary education is available and there are also vocational training classes.

Both local and overseas adoptions are arranged for babies and young children. Those reaching 18 years of age are helped into employment before they leave the home.

St. Christopher's Home is a Chinese diocesan orphanage administered by a committee with the Bishop of Hong Kong as chairman. It is financially supported by the Government, the Christian Children's Fund Incorporated, and voluntary donations.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 10 -

UK TRADE DESCRIPTION ACT TO COME INTO FORCE IN DECEMBER

The Director of Commerce and Industry is advising exporters and manufacturers that the United Kingdom's Trade Description Act 1972 will come into force at the end of this year.

The legislation requires conspicuous indications of the country of origin of all imported goods bearing a United Kingdom name or mark.

The Director said that exporters and manufacturers should, in their own interest, ensure that exports to the U.K. comply with the new regulations.

The advice is contained in a special notice to exporters (Series 1 Britain No. 16/72) which is obtainable at the Commerce and Industry Department's Textiles Licensing Office, 2nd floor, Fire Brigade Building.

/11

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 11 -

HAPPY VALLEY AND ABERDEEN WATER INTERRUPTIONS

Water supply to a number of premises in Happy Valley and Aberdeen on Hong Kong Island will be turned off for certain periods beginning late tomorrow and early on Wednesday.

The temporary stoppage in Happy Valley, which begins at 10 p.m. tomorrow and will last for eight hours, will enable the Waterworks Office to connect fresh water mains at the junction of Wong Nei Chong Road and Shan Kwong Road.

The area affected includes all premises in Po Shin Street, Fung Fai Terrace, Village Terrace, Wang Tak Street, Nos. 1 - 7 Wong Nei Chong Road, Nos. 2 - 16C Shan Kwong Road, Nos. 2 - 30 and 1 - 15A Village Road.

In Aberdeen, the stoppage will last for five hours beginning from 1 a.m. on Wednesday (September 13) while a leakage test for waste detection is carried out.

The area affected is bounded by Aberdeen Main Road from Aberdeen Technical School to Aberdeen Dock, including Old Main Street, Wu Nam Street, Wu Pak Street, Tung Sing Road, Chengtu Street, Sai On Street, Lok Yeung Street and Tsung Man Street.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 12 -

HIGHER RICE QUOTA FOR LAST QUARTER

The rice import quota for the fourth quarter of 1972 has been provisionally fixed at 94,600 metric tons, 7½ per cent above the basic quota of 88,000 metric tons.

Commenting on the quota, a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said today that rice consumption normally increased in the last quarter with the advent of cooler weather. The size of the quota had been determined with this in mind.

"The department will keep developments in the rice trade under close review, and may issue a supplementary quota during the quarter should circumstances so warrant," the spokesman said.

In the first eight months of this year Hong Kong imported 242,463 tons of rice. Of this Thailand supplied 65 per cent, China 28 per cent, and Australia 5 per cent. The remainder came mainly from Burma, the United States and North Vietnam.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 13 -

GOVERNMENT LOTTERY PROMOTION

Four Radio Hong Kong artistes today helped sell lottery tickets for the 55th Government Lottery and the special 10th Anniversary Government Lottery, at the Star Ferry concourse Jockey Club selling booth.

They were Miss Monita Miu, Miss Sheila Leung, Miss Kimmy Got and Miss Stella Chan.

Later during a press conference, the Chairman of the Lotteries Management Committee, Mr. S.C. Wu urged members of the public to support the 55th Government Lottery, which is the last one to be held this year, and also the special anniversary lottery.

He pointed out that the special lottery will have seven winning numbers with bigger prizes than the ordinary lotteries.

The draw for both lotteries will be held on September 23.

After the draw, the Lung Cheung Troupe will perform a Chinese opera. Members of the public are welcome to attend. They can write to Radio Hong Kong, Kowloon P.O. Box 200 and ask for admission tickets, together with a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

Monday, September 11, 1972

- 14 -

WEEKLY MEDICAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

Statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department for the week ended on August 26, 1972 are as follows:-

* Notifications of infectious cases (previous week's figures in brackets) -- total 222 (195); amoebiasis -- nil (2); bacillary dysentery -- 7 (7); tuberculosis -- 199 (177); enteric fever (typhoid) -- 10 (6); leprosy -- 3 (2); measles -- 2 (nil) and ophthalmia neonatorum -- 1 (1).

* Births -- total registered 1,516; 385 on Hong Kong Island, 935 in Kowloon, and 196 in the New Territories.

* Deaths -- 293 from all causes; 110 on the Island, 174 in Kowloon and 9 in the New Territories.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 7.00 p.m.