



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1977.

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### NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS IN PRISONS FALLS

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THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED DRUG ADDICTS ADMITTED TO PRISONS DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS LAST YEAR DROPPED DRAMATICALLY COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN 1975, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDICTS ADMITTED WAS 6,962, OR 63.96 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF ALL INSTITUTIONS. DURING 1976 THESE FIGURES FELL TO 4,737 OR 47.17 PER CENT.

IN JANUARY 1975 THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ADDICTS ADMITTED WAS 633 (66.42 PER CENT OF ALL ADMISSIONS). BY JANUARY 1976 THIS FIGURE HAD DROPPED TO 570 (55.23 PER CENT) AND BY DECEMBER 1976 HAD BEEN FURTHER REDUCED TO 279 (39.13 PER CENT). DESPITE THIS, THE NUMBER OF FEMALE ADDICTS ROSE FROM 58 IN 1975 TO 73 IN 1976.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES MR. LO KWOK-KUEN, SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS) OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT A NUMBER OF FACTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STEEP DROP.

HE SAID THAT THERE HAD GENERALLY BEEN A FALL IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARRESTED AND GIVEN TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT IN HONG KONG, PERHAPS LARGELY BECAUSE OF BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THIS, COUPLED WITH A RESPONSE TO THE HEAVY PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, COULD HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE OVERALL PICTURE.

+MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES IN HONG KONG ARE NOW MORE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF TAKING DRUGS AND ARE MORE INTERESTED IN HEALTHY OUTDOOR PURSUITS+, MR. LO SAID.

+THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT COULD ALSO BE ANOTHER FACTOR. THERE IS MUCH MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DO HERE THAN BEFORE. PICNICS AND BARBEQUES HAVE BECOME MORE POPULAR, AND YOUNG PEOPLE APPRECIATE THE COUNTRYSIDE MUCH MORE NOW+, HE ADDED.

MR. LO ALSO POINTED OUT THE SUCCESS OF THE POLICE AND THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS IN MAKING MANY LARGE SEIZURES OF DRUGS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY ONTO THE STREETS AND INTO THE HANDS OF POTENTIAL ADDICTS.

MR. LO SAID THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT OPERATED A UNIQUE DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMME WITH A 60 PER CENT SUCCESS RATE ONE YEAR AFTER RELEASE -- EXTREMELY HIGH BY WORLD STANDARDS. THE METHADONE TREATMENT CENTRES RUN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

MR. LO SAID THAT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WAS PLEASED WITH THIS TREND AND HOPED IT WOULD CONTINUE.

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HK EXPERIENCED A VERY COLD SPELL LAST MONTH

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HONG KONG EXPERIENCED A VERY COLD SPELL TOWARDS THE END OF LAST MONTH, WITH FROST COVERING PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND RIME ON TOP OF TAI MO SHAN.

WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF THE MONTH WERE GENERALLY MILD, WITH ABOVE-NORMAL TEMPERATURES RECORDED ALMOST EVERYDAY.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 23, THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 26.2 DEGREES CELSIUS -- THE HIGHEST RECORDED IN THE MONTH.

HOWEVER, AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED LATE ON DECEMBER 25 BRINGING WITH IT A VERY COLD SPELL WHICH LASTED UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

AS A RESULT, THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. THE TOTAL DURATION OF SUNSHINE WAS ABOUT SIX PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL WHILE RAINFALL WAS ONLY FOUR PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE AMOUNT.

ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 28, THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED TO A MINIMUM OF 5.7 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE LOWEST IN THE MONTH, WHILE TAI MO SHAN REGISTERED A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF -3 DEGREES CELSIUS.

WARNINGS OF FROST AND ICE WERE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY BETWEEN DECEMBER 26 AND 28. DURING THIS PERIOD, RIME WAS OBSERVED NEAR THE TOP OF TAI MO SHAN AND FROST REPORTED ON THE HIGH GROUND AND NORTHERN PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AN OLD MAN WAS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED OF THE COLD. DAMAGE TO CROPS WAS SLIGHT BUT MANY YOUNG FISH IN THE FISH PONDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE KILLED AND THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE LOSS IN LIVESTOCK.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS LAST MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH, THE WINTER STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ON THREE OCCASIONS, WHILE LOW TEMPERATURE WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FOUR TIMES, AND THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNINGS TWICE.

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NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES DROPPED  
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BOTH INDEXES A AND B OF THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR LAST MONTH (DECEMBER, 1976) DROPPED BY ONE POINT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX A, BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1,499 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY 1973-74, WAS 112.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS FELL BY THREE POINTS, MAINLY BECAUSE OF A SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES. SALT WATER FISH PRICES WERE LOWER WHILE THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH WATER FISH AND PORK ROSE.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING ROSE BY FOUR POINTS, FOLLOWING INCREASES IN THE RENTS OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS, HOUSING AUTHORITY'S GROUP B ESTATES AND FORMER GOVERNMENT LOW COST HOUSING ESTATES.

INCREASES OF ONE POINT EACH WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS DUE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR SOME ITEMS OF MAN'S UNDERCLOTHING AND MEDICINES.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR THE OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS AND SERVICES WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX B, REFLECTING HOUSEHOLD SPENDINGS BETWEEN \$1,500 AND \$2,999 A MONTH IN THE 1973-74 EXPENDITURE SURVEY WAS 113.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS ALSO FELL BY THREE POINTS LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE VEGETABLE PRICE MOVEMENTS AND THE INDEX FOR SERVICES DROPPED BY ONE POINT DUE TO REDUCED SCHOOL FEES FOR PUPILS UNDER THE BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME IN BOTH NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING ROSE BY TWO POINTS AS A RESULT OF INCREASES IN THE RENTS OF THREE CATEGORIES OF DWELLINGS AND THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS ADVANCED BY ONE POINT DUE TO A FURTHER RISE IN THE PRICES OF MEDICINES.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE SIMILARLY INSIGNIFICANT.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT MEDICAL CENTRE

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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL MAKE A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE MARGARET TRENCH MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE AT KWUN TONG NEXT TUESDAY. IT WILL BE HER FIRST VISIT TO THE CENTRE FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

THE CENTRE, RUN BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION, WAS COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1962 AS THE MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE, BUT WAS OFFICIALLY RENAMED IN MARCH 1971.

THE CENTRE, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST, IS SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION AND PUBLIC DONATIONS.

PATIENTS MAY BE SENT FROM ANY HOSPITAL IN HONG KONG OR BE REFERRED FOR ADMISSION TO THE CENTRE BY CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS, PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS, INDIVIDUALS AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE CENTRE CAN ACCEPT ABOUT 80 PATIENTS AND NO CHARGE IS MADE FOR TREATMENT OR ACCOMMODATION.

DURING THE VISIT, LADY MACLEHOSE WILL INSPECT THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES AND CHAT WITH THE PATIENTS. SHE WILL STAY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LADY MACLEHOSE WILL BE ARRIVING AT THE CENTRE AT 10.30 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 25. TRANSPORT TO THE CENTRE FROM WAN CHAI MAY BE BOOKED BY CALLING MRS. ALICE WONG AT 5-270099 ON MONDAY.

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NEW BUSINESS HOURS FOR TWO POST OFFICES

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE BUSINESS HOURS OF THE PEAK POST OFFICE AT UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINAL BUILDING AND PERKINS ROAD POST OFFICE AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI HANG ROAD AND PERKINS ROAD WILL BE CHANGED AS FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 24).

THE NEW BUSINESS HOURS WILL BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 5 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS.

NOTICES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE POST OFFICES CONCERNED TO REMIND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF THE CHANGES.

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TREASURY'S REVENUE BRANCH MOVES TO NEW OFFICES

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THE REVENUE BRANCH OF THE TREASURY WILL MOVE FROM ITS PRESENT OFFICES AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING TO ROOMS 202, 203 AND 404 OF HANG CHONG BUILDING, AT 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL ON MONDAY. BUT THE PAYMENTS OFFICE WILL REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT ADDRESS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, C.G.O. WEST WING.

FROM MONDAY, TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS SHOULD BE MADE TO: RATES (5-221394), PROPERTY TAX AND DEPOSIT (5-220635) = CROWN RENT (5-225850) AND ARREARS OF RATES (5-226574).

THE PENSIONS SECTION OF THE TREASURY WILL MOVE FROM NEW SINCERE BUILDING IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF C.G.O. WEST WING ON JANUARY 31. THE NEW TELEPHONE NO. FOR PENSIONS ENQUIRIES WILL BE 5-95300.

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