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SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1974

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE H.K. ISLAND
A SMOKE CONTROL AREA
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THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ISLAND SHOULD BE DECLARED A SMOKE CONTROL AREA IMMEDIATELY, AND THE REST OF HONG KONG SHOULD FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THIS IS ONE OF MANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD BY THE AIR POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (CEPCOM).

THE AIR POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR. WALTER SULKE, IS ONE OF THREE SUB-COMMITTEES FORMED UNDER THE MAIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHICH IS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. JOHN KARDEN. THE OTHER TWO ARE THE WATER AND LAND POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE, UNDER MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, AND THE NOISE POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE, UNDER MR. HENRY LYTTON.

SINCE THEY WERE ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE THREE SUB-COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN HOLDING REGULAR MEETINGS TO DISCUSS WAYS OF COMBATTING VARIOUS FORMS OF POLLUTION IN HONG KONG.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AIR POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE INCLUDE A CALL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CONTROL POLLUTION BY OXIDES OF SULPHUR.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE PROPOSES THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PROCESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. AT THE SAME TIME, LAWS SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE STANDARD ON DIESEL ENGINE EMISSION.

WHERE LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED, THE SUB-COMMITTEE STRONGLY FEELS THAT IT MUST BE CAPABLE OF EASY ENFORCEMENT. THE PENALTIES FOR OFFENDERS MUST BE SEVERE ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM TAKE DUE NOTE AND TO SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE FAIL TO COMPLY.

IT ALSO CONSIDERS THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE EQUIPPED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURING AND MONITORING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE.

MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO CONTROL NOISE POLLUTION AND POLLUTION ON LAND AND WATER HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE OTHER TWO SUB-COMMITTEES.

THE NOISE POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE HAS SUGGESTED MEASURES FOR COMBATTING THE NUISANCE OF CONSTRUCTION NOISE. IT FEELS THIS WOULD BEST BE TACKLED EITHER BY BANNING THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AS COMPRESSORS AND DRILLS DURING CERTAIN HOURS, OR BY SETTING A NOISE LIMIT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE EXCEEDED AT ANY TIME.

AS THE FIRST STEP, THE SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE USE OF AIR COMPRESSORS, PNEUMATIC DRILLS, CONCRETE VIBRATORS AND ALL TYPES OF MECHANICAL HAMMERS SHOULD BE BANNED FROM 8 P.M. TO 6 A.M. AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, EXCEPT IN CASES OF AUTHORISED EMERGENCY WORK

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MEMBERS OF THE NOISE POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING THE NOISE PRODUCED BY INDUSTRIAL AIR-CONDITIONING AND AIRCRAFT.

THE REPORT OF THE WATER AND LAND POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE REVEALS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CONSULT EXPERT OPINION AND TO DEVISE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION DEALING WITH OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENT. THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS SEEKING TO SET UP A CONTROL ORGANISATION TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

THE PLAN TO ESTABLISH A CONTROLLED TIP IN SHUEN WAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES

IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE NECESSARY WORK HAVE BEEN PREPARED AND ARE AWAITING AUTHORISATION BY THE FINANCE BRANCH. A SITE IN HA CHO LUNG CAN BE MADE READY FOR USE AS A REFUSE DUMP SIX MONTHS AFTER FUNDS ARE VOTED.

INVESTIGATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY CONSULTANTS INTO VARIOUS METHODS OF DISPOSING OF SOLID WASTE. THIS WILL LEAD TO A PROGRAMME FOR THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

EPCOM CONSIDERED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES AND WILL SUBMIT THESE TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

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ADVICE FOR INTENDING SQUATTER-HUT BUYERS
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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TODAY REITERATED ITS ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC THAT GREAT CARE AND CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED OVER OFFERS OF SALES OF SQUATTER-TYPE STRUCTURES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THESE OFFERS ARE COUPLED WITH PROMISES OF RE-ACCOMMODATION BY THE DEPARTMENT AT SOME LATER TIME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT IT WAS ILLEGAL TO OCCUPY CROWN LAND WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY AND THAT ANY STRUCTURES BUILT IN THIS WAY WERE ILLEGAL AND SUBJECT TO DEMOLITION.

HE WENT ON: +IT IS ALSO AGAINST THE LAW TO ERECT OR PLACE ANYTHING ON LEASED OR LICENSED LAND WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY.+

IN SUCH A CASE, THE LESSEE OR LICENSEE, ON FAILING TO COMPLY WITH A NOTICE TO DEMOLISH THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURE BUILT ON THE LAND, RUNS THE RISK OF HAVING THE PROPERTY ON THE LAND CONFISCATED.

CURRENTLY, RACKETEERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THIS TRADE AND PURPORTED TO SELL HUTS ILLEGALLY BUILT ON CROWN LAND.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT ANYONE WHO FAILED TO HEED THE ADVICE WOULD LOSE THEIR MONEY TO THE RACKETEERS.

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SURVEY ON AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING
INDUSTRY BEGINS TOMORROW
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A THREE-WEEK MAJOR SURVEY OF HONG KONG'S AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING INDUSTRY WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE SURVEY - THE SECOND OF ITS KIND - WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED BY RANDOM STRATIFIED SAMPLING.

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM EMPLOYERS INCLUDE: THE NUMBER OF WORKERS AT PRESENT EMPLOYED AND UNDER TRAINING= THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES= AND A FORECAST OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS REQUIRED BY MAY 1975.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING BOARD, MR. AU-YEUNG MAN-TAK, SAID THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT.

HE SAID THE FIRST SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER 1967 IN WHICH ALL THE ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED WILLINGLY SUPPLIED THE INFORMATION REQUIRED.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SECOND SURVEY WILL MEET WITH EQUAL SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN 1967 WAS COMPILED AND ANALYSED AND THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED. SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

IN VIEW OF THE MANY CHANGES SINCE THE LAST SURVEY, THE BOARD CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO CONDUCT ANOTHER SURVEY TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON NEW TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

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CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUE EXERCISE
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THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES STAGED AN HOUR-LONG EXERCISE IN THE HILLY AREAS TO THE WEST OF CASTLE PEAK THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING.

THE EXERCISE, PART OF THE CAS BIENNIAL INSPECTION, INCLUDED A SEARCH FOR TWO LOST HIKERS IN DISTRESS IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND CASUALTY EVACUATION BY HELICOPTER AND LAND TRANSPORT.

SQUADRON LEADER D. LOFTS, THE INSPECTOR OF LAND RESCUE, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, UNITED KINGDOM, WHO IS IN HONG KONG FOR THE BIENNIAL INSPECTION, WAS AT THE SCENE TO ASSESS THE OPERATIONAL SKILL AND CAPABILITY OF THE CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS.

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