



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1975

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DESERTION RATE DROPS  
AS HK SEAMEN BECOME MORE RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT  
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SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE GRADUALLY REGAINING CONFIDENCE IN THE RELIABILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF HONG KONG SEAMEN AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED DISCIPLINE AND A MORE STEADFAST DEVOTION TO DUTY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT 190 VACANCIES, FORMERLY FILLED BY FOREIGN SEAMEN, HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REPLACED BY LOCAL RATINGS.

+ALTHOUGH THIS COULD NOT OFFSET OTHER POSTS LOST TO FOREIGN SEAMEN IN THE SAME PERIOD, IT IS THE BIGGEST SINGLE BATCH OF VACANCIES OFFERED TO LOCAL SEAMEN IN A LONG TIME AND, HOPEFULLY, THE START OF A NEW TREND,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG SEAMEN ARE RECOVERING THEIR IMAGE AS BEING HARDWORKING, CAPABLE AND DEPENDABLE MAINLY BECAUSE OF A SHARP DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DESERTED THEIR SHIPS IN FOREIGN PORTS.

+THE DESERTION RATE OF LOCAL SEAMEN HAS BEEN DROPPING QUICKLY SINCE THE PEAK WAS REACHED IN THE PERIOD 1968 TO 1971 WHEN A TOTAL OF 5,179 SEAMEN JUMPED SHIP,+ HE SAID, +THIS AVERAGED OVER 100 DESERTIONS A MONTH.+

IN 1974, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DESERTIONS HAS DROPPED TO 516 OR AN AVERAGE OF 43 A MONTH. DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THEY FURTHER DROPPED TO 165 — AN AVERAGE OF 27 A MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN ATTRIBUTED THE LOWER DESERTION RATE TO TOUGHER PENALTIES, IMPROVED WELFARE AND WORKING CONDITIONS, THE SCARCITY OF JOBS ABROAD AND IN HONG KONG AND A SUCCESSFUL DRIVE TO BRING HOME TO SEAMEN THE LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES OF DESERTION.

UNDER REVISED LEGISLATION EFFECTIVE FROM FEBRUARY 1973, SEAMEN WHO JUMPED SHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE SUSPENDED FROM GOING TO SEA FOR TWO YEARS. SECOND OFFENDERS HAVE THEIR NAMES PERMANENTLY REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER.

+THIS IS MUCH MORE REALISTIC THAN THE FORMER SUSPENSION PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WHICH A LOT OF SEAMEN COULD AFFORD TO REGARD AS A HOLIDAY,+ HE SAID. +THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE REALISATION THAT SUCH ACTS MAY PUT A LOT OF THEIR COLLEAGUES OUT OF WORK, ARE MAKING SEAMEN THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY DESERT.+

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF POSTS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL SEAMEN HAD BEEN DECREASING STEADILY DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, BUT IT WAS HOPED THAT THIS DOWNWARD TREND CAN BE HALTED AS A RESULT OF A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN SEAMEN, THE S.R.O., THE SEAMEN'S UNIONS AND THE SHIPPING COMPANIES.

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+THE WORLD-WIDE RECESSION IS ALSO PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DWINDLING NUMBER OF JOBS BECAUSE OF A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW SHIPS BEING DELIVERED AND AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SHIPS, ESPECIALLY TANKERS, BEING LAID UP,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH HONG KONG SEAMEN ENJOY MUCH HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER CONDITIONS THAN THOSE FROM OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES APART FROM JAPAN, THEY ARE STILL COMPETITIVE BECAUSE OF THE SUPERIOR BASIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE S.R.O. BEFORE REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE.

HE NOTED THAT THERE ARE AT PRESENT EIGHT SEA TRAINING SCHOOLS PROVIDING VARIOUS COURSES FOR SEAMEN AND CADET OFFICERS AND THEY TURN OUT 130 WELL QUALIFIED GRADUATES EVERY MONTH.

+ALL THESE COURSES HAVE BEEN SCRUTINISED AND APPROVED BY THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING AUTHORITY AND THE QUALITY OF THE GRADUATES IS COMPARABLE TO THOSE FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT STORIES ABOUT HONG KONG SEAMEN HAVING POOR DISCIPLINE HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED.

+THIS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE FACT THAT ONLY 64 SEAMEN, FOUND GUILTY OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT OR REPEATED DESERTIONS, HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF THE REGISTRY OF SEAMEN SINCE 1968,+ HE SAID. +THIS IS A VERY LOW PERCENTAGE WHEN SEEN AGAINST THE TOTAL OF 86,296 SEAMEN REGISTERED.+

+AN ABLE SEAMAN CAN EARN UP TO \$1,300 A MONTH,+ HE SAID. +ON TOP OF THAT, HE IS ENTITLED TO STANDBY PAY, OVERTIME PAY, LEAVE PAY, FREE MEDICAL ATTENTION, FOOD ALLOWANCES AND SOMETIMES A BONUS ON COMPLETION OF A TERM OF SERVICE.+

A TOTAL OF 31,317 JOBS ON BOARD VARIOUS SHIPS HAVE BEEN FILLED BY LOCAL SEAMEN THROUGH THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATION SECTION OF THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE EXAMINES THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT USED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES AND ENSURES THAT THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OFFERED TO SEAMEN ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING AUTHORITY.

LABOUR DISPUTES INVOLVING SEAMEN AND THEIR EMPLOYERS HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS UNIT OF THE CREWS DIVISION WHERE SUCH DISPUTES CAN BE TAKEN TO BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATORY MEANS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS  
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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN YAU MA TEI AND TAI WOH PING AREAS IN KOWLOON ON FRIDAY (JULY 25).

IN YAU MA TEI, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION PERIOD OF 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON GASCOIGNE ROAD BETWEEN NATHAN ROAD AND WYLIE ROAD, AND ON JORDAN ROAD BETWEEN GASCOIGNE ROAD AND JORDAN PATH, WILL BE EXTENDED BY FIVE HOURS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE LATE EVENING.

THIS MEANS ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP ON THE ROAD SECTIONS TO PICK UP AND SET DOWN PASSENGERS OR TO LOAD AND UNLOAD GOODS BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT.

THE EXTENDED RESTRICTION HOURS WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY.

IN TAI WOH PING, THERE WILL BE DIVERSIONS LASTING ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR TRAFFIC USING THE WESTERN END OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND NAM CHEONG STREET EXTENSION, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE FINAL STAGE OF WORKS ON TAI WOH PING INTERCHANGE.

TRAFFIC NOW MAKING A SIGNAL-CONTROLLED RIGHT TURN FROM NAM CHEONG STREET EXTENSION TOWARDS LIONS ROCK TUNNEL WILL HAVE TO MAKE A G-TURN BY FIRST TURNING LEFT AT THE END OF THE NAM CHEONG STREET EXTENSION.

THE EXISTING SEPARATE NORTH AND SOUTH ROUTES ON NAM CHEONG STREET EXTENSION WILL BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC. IN ADDITION, THE ELEVATED ROAD AT THE TAI WOH PING INTERCHANGE WILL BE OPENED TO WESTBOUND TRAFFIC.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON DUTY TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED  
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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON NOVEMBER 19, 1974 ON MA SUNG-LEE, KWOK KI-CHEONG, AND FONG CHONG-MING ALIAS FONG MUK-TUNG SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE PRISONERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LAM PO ALIAS LAM SUN-SHUI.

NG LEE-KIN ALIAS FONG LEE-KIN, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH TOGETHER WITH THE ABOVE PRISONERS, COMMITTED SUICIDE IN HIS CELL ON MAY 18, 1975.

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+MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:-

A +MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JULY 24) AT 4 P.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. F.J. YOUNG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE MEETING COVERED. TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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**SPECIAL REGISTRATION FACILITIES FOR PING SHAN RESIDENTS**  
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THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL NEXT WEEK SET UP A SPECIAL TEMPORARY OFFICE AT PING SHAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

THE REGISTRATION FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE PING SHAN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE BETWEEN 9:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M. FROM JULY 29 TO AUGUST 1.

RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING AREAS ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES TO REGISTER THEIR 11-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS. HOLDERS OF JUVENILE CARDS SHOULD REGISTER FOR ADULT CARDS WHEN THEY REACH 18 YEARS.

CHANGES IN REGISTERED PARTICULARS, SUCH AS MARITAL STATUS, ADDRESS AND EMPLOYMENT, SHOULD ALSO BE REPORTED SO THAT RECORDS CAN BE UPDATED.

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**WATER CUT**  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON JULY 25 (FRIDAY) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY YIM PO FONG STREET, WATERLOO ROAD, DUNDAS STREET, NATHAN ROAD AND SOY STREET.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE WATERWORKS OFFICE WILL BE CARRYING OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST IN ABERDEEN ON JULY 26 (SATURDAY) AND WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE AREA WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY THE NORTH SIDE OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD FROM ABERDEEN TRADE SCHOOL TO SHOUSON HILL ROAD= THE SOUTH SIDE OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD FROM HOUSE NO. 44 TO 62= HOUSE NO. 2 TO 10, HEUNG YIP ROAD= HOUSE NO. 2 TO 12, YIP FAT STREET, INCLUDING THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL.

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