



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CALL FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR SCOUTING	1
CONSTRUCTION OF MAIL CENTRE 90 PER CENT COMPLETE	2
MORE THAN 3,500 FIRES IN SIX MONTHS	3

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1979

- 1 -

CALL FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR SCOUTING

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCOUTING TO PROVIDE TRAINING, CHARACTER BUILDING AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

HE MADE THE APPEAL WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE TWO DEVELOPMENT UNITS OF THE HONG KONG SCOUT ASSOCIATION — THE ROVER SCOUT CREW AND THE LEADER RECRUITMENT CREW — AT THE FUNG KAI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHEUNG SHUI.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, MR. AKERS-JONES PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR HAVING ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN THE EXPANSION OF SCOUTING IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

+AND TODAY'S PARADE MARKS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THIS PROCESS,+ HE SAID.

+THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY.

+I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE THIS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU SO THAT IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SCOUTING WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TRAINING, CHARACTER BUILDING AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT THE SCOUT MOVEMENT WOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE DEVELOPING TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+I AM THEREFORE VERY PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE SCOUT DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. STEPHEN WONG HAD COMPLETED A DRAFT PLAN FOR SCOUTING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

MORE THAN 300 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, RECENTLY RECRUITED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE ROVER SCOUT CREW AND THE LEADER RECRUITMENT CREW, TOOK PART AT THE CEREMONY.

THE UNITS ARE TWO OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION'S MANY PILOT SCHEMES WHICH AIM TO COPE WITH THE EVER INCREASING NEED OF THE COMMUNITY AND TO PROVIDE BETTER SCOUTING FOR MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 25.

UNDER ITS SEVEN-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE ASSOCIATION PLANS TO INCREASE ITS MEMBERSHIP TO 50,000 BY 1982.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1979

- 2 -

CONSTRUCTION OF MAIL CENTRE 90 PER CENT COMPLETE

* * * * *

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE \$42 MILLION INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE BUILDING WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE REST WAS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN NOVEMBER.

+AT THE MOMENT, THE CONTRACTORS ARE INSTALLING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AUTOMATIC MAIL SORTING EQUIPMENT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CONSULTANT ENGINEERS OF THE BRITISH POSTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE AND P.W.D.'S ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

+THIS WORK IS PROGRESSING ACCORDING TO PROGRAMME AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN MAY NEXT YEAR.+

HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY CONFIDENCE TRIALS WHICH WOULD LAST MORE THAN A MONTH.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECT FORMED PART OF A PROGRAMME TO MECHANISE MAIL HANDLING FACILITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE MAIN BUILDING WILL HAVE A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 8,000 SQUARE METRES FOR THE MAIL SORTING COMPLEX WHICH INCLUDES MAIL SORTING, STORAGE AND PROCESSING, WITH ANCILLARY OFFICES.

THE TWO-STOREY MAIL CENTRE, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A DINING ROOM, AS WELL AS REST AND RECREATION ROOMS FOR STAFF.

A RAILWAY SPUR AND PLATFORM IS PROVIDED TO HANDLE MAIL TO AND FROM CHINA WHILE FOUR BERTHS FOR MAIL LAUNCHES WILL BE BUILT ALONG THE SEAWALL SOUTH OF THE CENTRE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1979

- 3 -

MORE THAN 3,500 FIRES IN SIX MONTHS
* * * * *

HONG KONG'S FIREMEN BATTLED A TOTAL OF 3,530 FIRES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR -- A 10.2 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE.

THE FIRES CLAIMED 21 LIVES AND CAUSED INJURY TO 340 PEOPLE, 38 OF THEM FIREMEN, A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT HE BELIEVED THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE FIRES WERE CARELESS DISPOSAL OF MATCHES AND CIGARETTE ENDS (1,396) AND ELECTRICAL FAULTS (853). THESE TWO CAUSES ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY 64 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRES.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE 4,978 FIRE CALLS OF WHICH 1,448 WERE FALSE ALARMS.

+THE MAJORITY OF THE FALSE-ALARM CALLS, THOUGH TIME-CONSUMING, WERE MADE WITH GOOD INTENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER OF FACTORY FIRES ALSO WENT UP FROM 231 FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR TO 284 THIS YEAR. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FACTORY FIRES IN 1978 WAS 554.

FIREMEN ALSO TACKLED 171 FIRES INVOLVING OVER-TURNED KEROSENE STOVES= 114 FIRES RESULTING FROM UNATTENDED OR DEFECTIVE COOKING STOVES, HEATERS AND IRONS= AND 189 FIRES CAUSED BY OVER-HEATING OF ENGINES, MOTORS AND MACHINERY.

JANUARY WAS THE BUSIEST WITH FIREMEN RESPONDING TO 1,068 CALLS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ALSO DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE AMBULANCE COMMAND DEALT WITH A TOTAL OF 95,594 CALLS -- AN INCREASE OF 2,781 MORE CALLS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -