



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Interim progress report on social causes of crime published ..	1
Housing Authority continues with the task of improving the estates .....	5
Dangerous goods manifests must be submitted before cargo can be unloaded .....	7
156 new building plans approved last month .....	8
Five buildings in Shaukiwan Main Street East declared dangerous	9
Temporary water cut in Yaumati and Yuen Long .....	10

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 1 -

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME

Committee Concludes No Single Factor Wholly Responsible For Crime

\*\*\*\*\*

The provision of adequate post-primary education facilities and effective social services will, in the long term, reduce the potential for crime.

This is the view of the government's special sub-committee set up to consider the social causes of crime.

The interim progress report of the committee, which is published today, considers that children of school age who are not attending school were more open to temptation to commit crime. This is particularly the case within the 12-14 age group who fail to go on to secondary schools.

"These children are debarred from working in factories under existing labour legislation and their leisure renders them more susceptible to criminal influence," the report adds.

The sub-committee also draws the government's attention to the "important relationship" between corruption and other forms of crime.

The report says that while the sub-committee does not endorse the "sweeping statements" made by some of the respondents from the general public, which it said were based on impressions rather than facts, the sub-committee shares their view that "corruption perpetuates the existence of vice and organised crime, erodes respect for authority and perversely influences the minds of the young."

/The sub-committee .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 2 -

The sub-committee also believes that there may be a connection between crime and broken families, and it shares the general view that the community activities now provided fail to satisfy the aspirations of many young people. "Their frustrated energies may thus find expression through crime."

Because of this the sub-committee feels the need for a "comprehensive and penetrating" examination of the various types of facilities and social services either already provided or included in existing government policies.

It recommends that the study - in terms of quality, quantity, method of implementation and priority - should be undertaken by a co-ordinating committee at the policy level, consisting of the secretaries concerned and the heads of the relevant departments.

This committee should further strengthen and develop the work already being done by :-

- \* indentifying the needs and aspirations of young people and the areas of deficiency in existing services; and
- \* ensuring the full utilisation of existing facilities and the maximum co-ordination of all the efforts involved.

The next task of the sub-committee will be to decide on the more common and permanent causes of violent crime and make further recommendations.

/Among the .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 3 -

Among the research projects will be a study of statistical analysis of records kept by the Social Welfare and Prisons Departments to find out the social background of young offenders. This study is now underway.

A second project will be a survey involving the interviewing of offenders who could be approached through the two departments, the purpose being to obtain more information on the causes which would precipitate or contribute to the incidence of crime.

As a general conclusion, the sub-committee feels that there is no single factor leading inevitably to criminal behaviour.

"Crime is the product of a multiplicity of factors interacting with one another. Family circumstances, living environment and personal adjustment vary from individual to individual so that every case of criminal behaviour has its own story," the report adds.

The following are the terms of reference of the sub-committee:-

(1) To examine and consider:

- (a) the range and assessment of crime statistics currently available;
- (b) the scope of relevant research and other authoritative material;
- (c) the social causes of crime, particularly violent crime.

/Having identified .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 4 -

(2) Having identified the causes, the Committee is to recommend possible remedies.

(3) To enable the above objectives, the Committee may:

(a) consult relevant Government and non-Government organisations;

(b) consult the opinion of persons of professional or authoritative standing in this field.

(4) The Committee is to prepare a report with recommendations. A progress report should be submitted not later than July 31, 1973.

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of the report are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press Boxes.

----- 0 -----

/5 .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 5 -

TENANTS' CO-OPERATION VITAL IN ESTATE IMPROVEMENT

\*\*\*\*\*

Residents of housing estates have an important role to play in efforts to improve their environment, Mr. Frank Carroll, Director of Estates Management of the Housing Department, said today.

Speaking at a Lions Club luncheon, Mr. Carroll said the newly formed Housing Authority was getting on with the task of introducing improvements to the former resettlement estates but "the difficulty of making immediate physical improvements, especially in the older estates, is very great."

He added, however, that work started by the former Resettlement Department was being continued and expanded.

"Improvements to public lighting in the corridors and public places have already been started and we are seeking to extend the caretaker system to most estates," he said. "At the same time we are going on with the demolition or removal of unauthorised structures and general tidying up of open spaces in estates to make them more useful to residents."

Mr. Carroll said the Housing Authority was particularly anxious to support the "Clean Our Buildings" campaign and a massive two-month block by block cleansing operation was being carried out to coincide with it.

In the first three weeks of the campaign 470 lorry loads of junk were removed from estates and in the older ones alone an estimated 30,000 old posters were removed.

/He pointed .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 6 -

He pointed out, however, that neither the campaign nor continuing efforts to improve estates could by themselves produce permanent results.

"These results depend on people and their recognition that rules must be laid down and accepted by all for the benefit of all," he said.

Selfishness or lack of thought for others could have a great impact on daily life in public housing estates and this was a factor the Housing Authority had to contend with, he added.

Another factor was suspicion among estate residents about the intentions of the new Authority. This, said Mr. Carroll, was well illustrated recently by the misunderstanding over the Authority's intentions regarding new shop tenancy agreements.

Tenants appeared to think that the Authority was out to deprive them of their security and their livelihoods when in fact nothing could be further from the truth.

"Such security is a major element in the stability of Hong Kong and the prosperity of everyone here," said Mr. Carroll.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 7 -

DANGEROUS GOODS MANIFESTS

\*\*\*\*\*

Masters of vessels entering Hong Kong with cargoes of dangerous goods are reminded of their obligation to submit a fully completed manifest to the Director of Marine.

In each case the name and full address of the consignee, and wherever possible the telephone number, should be provided in respect of each item.

A spokesman for the Marine Department said: "Incomplete information concerning dangerous goods, and in particular inadequate information concerning consignees, is causing difficulty in tracing the disposition of dangerous goods once they have been landed in Hong Kong."

Dangerous goods manifests which do not contain adequate information will be refused, and the items may not be discharged until the necessary details have been obtained and the manifest re-submitted, he added.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8 .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 8 -

BUILDING PROJECTS IN AUGUST

\*\*\*\*\*

A student hostel of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, together with a staff-student amenity hall and gymnasium were among 53 buildings which were certified for occupation last month.

The total declared cost of the buildings exceeded \$91 million.

In the same month, 136 building plans on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories were approved, as compared with 148 in July 1973 and 57 in August 1972.

Of the plans approved, three were for multi-storey apartment blocks in Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Lai Chi Kok.

Fifty-eight projects were cleared for work to begin, including a multi-storey car park and apartment/commercial building at Canton Road and Bute Street.

Approval was also given for the demolition of 52 buildings.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 9 -

FIVE PRE-WAR BUILDINGS IN SHAUKIWAN CONDEMNED

\*\*\*\*\*

The Building Authority today declared nos. 97, 99, 101 and 105 Shaukiwan Main Street East, on Hong Kong Island, to be in a dangerous condition and no. 103 liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said these two-storey pre-war buildings were inspected at the same time as many other buildings in the area following a collapse which resulted in the eventual closure of four buildings.

"There is extensive decay in much of the timber to floors and roof, some portions of which have collapsed while others are close to this condition," he said.

In addition, poor brickwork in some cases bulged and fractured giving rise to further collapses.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted today. Hearing will take place at 9.30 a.m. on October 24 in the Victoria District Court.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

Wednesday, September 26, 1973

- 10 -

WATER INTERRUPTION

\*\*\*\*\*

Water supply to a number of premises in Yaumati and in Yuen Long will be interrupted for several hours on Friday (September 28).

In Yaumati, the stoppage will be from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. to enable a test for leakage to be made in the area. The area affected is bounded by Dundas Street, Shanghai Street, Waterloo Road and the sea-front.

The temporary interruption in Yuen Long will be from 10 p.m. on Friday to 6 a.m. the following day to facilitate a water main connection at Castle Peak Road, near Lam Tei Road.

All premises from the 21 milestone to 22½ milestone at Castle Peak Road will be affected, including San Hing Tsuen, Tuen Tsz Wai, Tsing Chuen Wai, Lam Tei Area, Shun Fung Wai and Bowring Camp.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release time: 7.30 p.m.