



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, December 3, 1973

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INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today described "recreation for everyone" as three simple words but ones which represent a vast problem "in the densely packed population of Hong Kong".

Sir Murray, who was speaking at the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Council for Recreation and Sport, said: "I do not underrate the challenge that confronts you."

In stressing the importance he attached to the Council's work, he said that it represented something entirely new, although long advocated by some of its members: "Acceptance by the government that it has an obligation to try and ensure that there is recreation for everyone."

The Council for Recreation and Sport was officially established last Thursday (November 29) under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Home Affairs.

The official members are the Secretary for Social Services, the Secretary for the Environment, the Director of Urban Services, and the Deputy Financial Secretary. The unofficial members are Mr. A. de O. Sales, Mr. K.C. Thornton, Mr. H.C. Ma, Mr. F.K. Hu and Mr. Wong Chung-cheun.

The terms of reference of the council are to ensure that facilities for recreation and sport in both the urban and rural areas are expanded, consistent with resources available, that their use is maximised and that facilities and services are provided appropriate to meet the leisure-time needs of young people.

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The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:

"This is your inaugural meeting. I asked to attend it for two reasons. Firstly I wish to thank you all for your public spirit in accepting appointment to this Council; secondly I wish to emphasise the importance I attach to your work. This is not just another advisory committee. It represents something which is entirely new, although long advocated by some of you. Acceptance by the Government that it has an obligation to try and ensure that there is recreation for everyone.

"'Recreation for everyone' are three simple words. With the great experience you all have of administration and social service you will realise what a vast problem these three words represent in the densely packed population of Hong Kong, and I assure you I do not underestimate the challenge that confronts you.

"In a recent speech to the Legislative Council I said that in the present circumstances of Hong Kong provision of facilities for recreation, leisure and sport had taken a new and urgent significance; that they were no longer luxuries but a part of our social infrastructure which we would neglect at our peril. I do ask you to take these words most seriously. The need for imaginative and vigorous and coordinated action is as urgent as it is apparent.

"It is now up to you to advise the Government on what that action should be and I shall await this with the greatest interest.

"The field is vast, but as your terms of reference suggest, it can be broken down into different sectors. There are possibilities for making greater use of facilities already in existence, and to this is linked the expansion of supervisory services. Perhaps it is here that your quickest returns could be obtained. Then there is the possibility of expansion

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of the facilities themselves. This is longer term, but obviously of the greatest importance. In the unique circumstances of Hong Kong I believe that here there is room for some original thinking. There is the possibility of assisting amateur sporting organisations not only to improve the quality of sport, but the number of people participating in it. Finally, there are the immense opportunities for recreation offered by our mountains and beaches. Obviously these are closely connected with the programme of recreational development and nature conservation. Expanded use of the rural areas must be matched by expanded supervision and instruction to ensure the areas are not destroyed.

"Your terms of reference include the leisure-time needs of young people. Let us not forget that we have built the homes of Hong Kong in a form in which it is hard to obtain leisure in them. This social problem must be recognised and faced.

"Much work is already being done in these fields by departments of Government, the voluntary agencies, and private organisations. I wish you all success in your task of co-ordination, expansion and innovation. I shall watch your progress with the greatest interest and, I must admit, some impatience, and I do assure you of the strong support of myself and the whole Government."

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SERIOUS INCREASE IN INCIDENCE OF MEASLES

There were 112 notifications of measles during October, and one death, according to the monthly health returns issued by the Medical and Health Department today.

The figures brought the total of measles' notifications so far this year to 714, with 12 deaths.

A spokesman for the department said the totals justified a warning to parents of the possibility of a measles epidemic this winter, and he urged them to take advantage of the second phase of the 1973 anti-measles vaccination campaign starting on December 3, and lasting one month, to have their children immunised.

"Since measles' immunisation was begun in Hong Kong in January, 1968, there has been a very great reduction in the number of deaths from the disease, but even so, in the period between January 1968 and November 1973, 105 children have needlessly died from measles," he commented.

With the use of measles vaccine, it had been hoped that the epidemics occurring every two years would be a thing of the past, but this seemed, according to a reading of the chart, not to be the case.

"The biennial characteristic of the disease seems to be re-appearing, and it is likely that an epidemic of measles could be developing, which could reach its maximum between January and April next year," the spokesman said.

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In view of this, he urged parents of susceptible children between six months and five years to bring them immediately to the nearest government maternal and child health centre for immunisation. The campaign period was "simply a time of added publicity emphasis, and free vaccine is available throughout the year."

Of the 99 deaths recorded during October, tuberculosis accounted for 98.

Three cases of malaria were notified, but the spokesman said all three were "imported" by visitors.

No local case of malaria had been recorded for the last five years, and the disease could be said to have been virtually eliminated from Hong Kong.

There were no reports of diphtheria, meningitis or poliomyelitis during October. The incidence of other communicable diseases showed no appreciable variation.

During the month, Hong Kong remained free from cholera and other quarantinable diseases.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Motorists are advised that Jackson Road, between Connaught Road Central and Chater Road, will be closed to vehicles between 7.45 p.m. and 8.45 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

No vehicles, other than those proceeding under police authority, will be allowed into the closed section. Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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NEW SITES FOR CHAI WAN FIRE VICTIMS

Victims of the squatter fire which broke out at Chai Wan early yesterday (Sunday) morning were helped today by staff of the Squatter Control Office (Hong Kong) to fill in applications for licenced area sites.

Earlier in the morning, they attended a site identification to establish their claims. A total of 35 families, comprising 153 people, turned up at the site.

Altogether 37 illegal structures, all of them not covered by the 1964 survey, were destroyed in Sunday's fire.

Immediately after the outbreak, staff of the Housing and Social Welfare Departments rushed to the scene and registration of victims was completed at about 6 o'clock in the morning.

Six families, comprising 27 people who required temporary sheltered accommodation, were taken to the Queensway Transit Centre by transport provided by the Housing Department.

A spokesman for the Housing Department said it was the government's policy to provide licenced area sites for the genuine fire victims who lived in illegal unsurveyed huts.

"In addition, they will be given cash grants from the Emergency Relief Fund at the new rate, which is not less than \$1,330 a family," he added.

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"Arrangements for site allocation and distribution of cash allowances will be made as soon as final processing on the identity of the victims has been completed."

The spokesman explained that the squatters were only entitled to resite accommodation because their huts were illegal and not covered by the general survey on squatter huts carried out in 1964.

"Public housing is offered only to those living in structures recorded during the survey," he explained.

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NEW ASTRONOMICAL GUIDE NOW ON SALE

A new booklet of astronomical tables and star charts for Hong Kong are now on sale at \$4.50 per copy.

Compiled by the Royal Observatory, it lists the astronomical events of 1974, times of sunrise and sunset, times of moonrise and moonset, phases, declinations, perigees and apogees of the moon, as well as information on the sun and the planets, and star charts for each month of 1974.

For those who are interested in the comet Kohoutek (1973F), the booklet contains a special table giving all available information on this comet and its predicted positions in the night sky between November 9, 1973 and February 22, 1974.

The booklet is available at the Government Publications Centre at the Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong; the Government Printing Department; and from the Royal Observatory, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Copies may also be ordered through leading bookstores.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Yuen Long will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) to facilitate a water mains connection at Castle Peak Road near Shun Fung Wai, Yuen Long.

Premises along Castle Peak Road from San Hing Tsuen to Shun Fung Wai will be affected, including Lam Tei Area.

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COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS SCHEME PRESS CONFERENCE

Note to Editors: The Social Welfare Department will be implementing the new Community and Youth Officers Scheme on Wednesday (December 5).

A press conference will be held that day by Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, to announce details of this scheme and to introduce the first Community and Youth Officers being appointed.

Also present will be Mr. Peter Ng, City District Commissioner, Hong Kong Island, representing the Home Affairs Department and Mr. J.S. Warren, District Officer (Tsuen Wan), representing the New Territories Administration, the two departments with which the community and youth officers will be working closely.

The press conference will be held at 3.30 p.m. in the 35 mm cinema of the Government Information Services on the 5th floor of Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong.

You are invited to have it covered.

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CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL SPORTS DAY

The annual sports and fete of the Castle Peak Hospital will be held on Wednesday (December 5). About 1,000 patients and staff will participate in the affair, to be held in the sports ground of the hospital beginning at 10 a.m.

More than 100 patients, doctors, nurses, and other staff have entered for the various competitive events, including what promises to be the most interesting, a tug-of-war involving evenly-assembled groups.

The band of the Gurkha Regiment stationed in the area of the hospital will add colour to the day by providing a concert. Members of the forces have always supported the hospital on festive occasions.

"The sports day and fete are eagerly looked forward to by the patients," a hospital spokesman said. "From the staff's point of view, the events have great social and therapeutic value."

Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, will attend and distribute prizes to winners.

Note to Editors: You are invited to have the occasion covered.

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DANGEROUS BUILDING

A three-storey pre-war building at No. 97 Lai Chi Kok Road in Kowloon was today declared to be in a dangerous condition by the Building Authority.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said a detailed inspection of the building had revealed serious deterioration of reinforced concrete members in positions where further decay could lead to a failure. Major repairs, he said, were considered impractical.

In addition, some movement in the party walls was noted.

A notice of intention to apply for a closure order was posted on the building today. The application will be heard in Kowloon District Court on February 5 at 9 a.m.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Monday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C. Jien - old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Scarce	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.2	2.8	3.5
Big-Eyes	Good	2.5	0.65	1.5
				/Squid.....

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Squid	Normal	6.0	2.0	4.5
Hair-Tails	Good	2.4	1.2	1.9
Lizard Fishes	Limited	3.1	1.1	2.0
Croakers	Good	1.85	1.2	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.6	2.3	2.4
Melon Coat	Normal	2.2	1.5	1.8
Breams	Scarce	6.0	3.0	4.0
Yellow Belly	Limited	1.5	0.9	1.3
Mackerels	Limited	4.0	3.0	3.5
Red Goat Fish	Scarce	3.2	0.8	2.0
Fork-Tail	Scarce	1.6	1.0	1.2
Horse-Head	Good	5.5	3.3	4.0
Melon Seed	Limited	2.6	1.4	2.4
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.5	7.0	7.5
Garoupas	Limited	6.8	5.7	6.5
Yellow Croaker	Limited	5.0	3.3	4.5

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.80	0.80	1.40
White cabbage	Good	0.35	0.08	0.28
Chinese lettuce	Good	0.45	0.10	0.30

/Chinese kale

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<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Chinese kale	Normal	1.00	0.35	0.70
Spring onion	Normal	1.20	0.30	0.80
Spinach	Normal	1.20	0.40	0.70
Water cress	Normal	1.20	0.40	0.80
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.50	0.20	0.35
Tomato	Scarce	2.20	1.40	1.80

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/picul)</u>
Pork	Good	285

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.