



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, October 28, 1972

NEW ROLE FOR FORMER MISSIONS TO SEAMEN BUILDING

The former Missions to Seamen building in Gloucester Road, made redundant when the Mariners' Club opened in Kowloon a few years ago, is to be reopened in April 1973 as a residence for nurses.

It will house 210 student nurses and is to be called Harcourt House.

The first group of 70 will be housed in April and May next year. Another group of 70 will take up residence in October, and Harcourt House will be fully occupied by January 1974.

The nurses will work on a shift basis, so that each day there will be three shifts of 70 nurses travelling between Harcourt House and Queen Mary Hospital.

Normally, student nurses are provided with accommodation at the hospital in which they receive their training, but there are now insufficient quarters at the Queen Mary Hospital.

As there is no direct public transport service between Wanchai and the Queen Mary Hospital, a 50-seater bus will convey the nurses back and forth as a free service.

This is considered sufficient, but it may be necessary to supplement it with existing departmental transport for the day shift.

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Originally, when the Missions to Seamen building closed following the opening of the Mariners' Club in Tsim Sha Tsui, hostel accommodation for civil servants was in short supply, and plans were taken in hand to convert 70 rooms for single and married officers without children.

After work had begun, the Kowloon Service Flats were completed, and there was a general improvement in the availability of hotel accommodation for officers returning from, or going on, leave.

In these circumstances, it was considered more appropriate to re-allocate the building so that it could help meet the urgent requirements of the Medical and Health Department for accommodation of student nurses in training for current requirements and the staff needs for hospitals under construction.

Accommodation for 210 could be provided at the building with little alteration to the existing project.

Work is now proceeding, and the total cost of the conversion is estimated at about \$2.5 million.

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UTILIZATION OF 1972 COTTON QUOTAS

An Export Authorisation Scheme will come into operation on November 1, 1972 to enable companies holding 1972 cotton quotas to effect shipments of woven polyester cotton textiles to the United Kingdom for the period up to December 1, 1972.

The Director of Commerce and Industry has issued a Notice to Exporters, Series 1 (Britain), No. 20/72, regarding the operation of the Scheme.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters, Series 1 (Britain), will receive copies of the notice shortly.

Persons who wish to receive advance notice of the contents are invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:-

Mr. H.T.W. Lau - Assistant Trade Officer
Tel. No. H-430719

Mr. C.K. Ng - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. H-446789

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PRAISE FOR NEW POLYCLINIC

Dr. P. Jeffrey Chapman, Senior Medical Officer, Medical Research Council in Britain, said the facilities and equipment at the new South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic were "superb."

He made this comment recently before returning to Britain at the end of a three-week private visit to Hong Kong, during which he conferred with senior officers of the Medical and Health Department.

The South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra at a formal ceremony earlier this week.

It is a new establishment designed to serve the needs of the growing population of the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung townships.

Britain's Medical Research Council has been engaged for some years in a study with Hong Kong's Medical and Health Department, the Anti-Tuberculosis and Thoracic Diseases Association and the Haven of Hope Sanatorium on ways and means of reducing the length of treatment of tuberculosis.

Dr. Chapman said his visit was not in connection with this programme, but from what he had seen of it, he thought "things were going extremely well."

He had "nothing but praise" for the expanding medical and health services in Hong Kong, and he was particularly struck by the youth and enthusiasm of many medical officers in positions of authority he had met while here.

"They reflect, I suppose, the general youth of the population, since they are a product of it," he commented. "It is quite impressive what a great deal of responsibility many of these officers have at what I would consider a relatively young age."

/Dr. Chapman was

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Dr. Chapman was here three years ago, and this was his second visit. He said in this short time so many changes had occurred that he "scarcely recognised the place."

He thought the new low-cost and resettlement estates were a "tremendous improvement" over the old-type blocks, and he saw much in the designs to praise.

He hoped residents would respond to the boon of these larger and more airy quarters by keeping their environment clean.

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U.S.D. STAFF'S CHILDREN TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Sixty-five children of staff members of the Urban Services Department will be presented with the U.S.D. Schools Scholarships next week.

Mr. A.P. Richardson, Deputy Director of Urban Services and Chairman of the U.S.D. Schools Scholarship Fund Management Committee, will hand out the scholarships at a presentation ceremony on Monday (October 30).

The Scholarship Fund, which started with only \$4,000 donated by the department staff 10 years ago, has now accumulated to more than \$60,000. The assets of the fund have accrued mainly from raffles, variety shows, film shows and investment.

The presentation ceremony will take place at 5.30 p.m. on Monday at the Training Unit of the Urban Services Department on the roof of the Central Market, Des Voeux Road, Central.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the ceremony.

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SHIP-BUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING SAFETY GUIDE

Note to Editors: The Marine Department has published a guide setting out safe working practices in the shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries.

The guide has been prepared by a working party which was set up last October following a number of fires and explosions in recent years on board ships either under construction or repairs.

To introduce the guide, a Press conference, to be chaired by the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr. R. Blacklock, will be held at the G.I.S. 35 mm Theatre on Monday, October 30.

Mr. Blacklock, Chairman of the Working Party, will also take the opportunity to speak on Government's response to recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry investigating the fires on board the "Jumbo" floating restaurant and the "Seawise University".

Also present will be Mr. B.S. Makhiya, Surveyor of Ships of the Marine Department, and a member of the working party.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the Press conference which will be held in the 35 mm Theatre, Government Information Services Department, 5th Floor, Beaconsfield House, on Monday, October 30.

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OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION CENTRE

A 1,400 square-foot off-street refuse collection centre is to be built in King Lam Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, to take the pressure off kerb-side collection points.

It will be enclosed by seven-foot-high reinforced concrete walls on three sides with a concrete covered area at one end.

The provision of this type of off-street refuse collection point will relieve the use of heavily burdened kerb-side collection points by introducing trailer compounds for mobile trailers to collect refuse from an enclosed area.

Work on the collection centre is expected to begin by the middle of December and will take two months to complete.

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TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY STOPPAGE

Water supply to a number of premises in Conduit Road, Mid-levels on Hong Kong Island will be turned off for eight hours as from 10 a.m. on Monday (October 30).

This is to enable the Waterworks Office to replace a tee at Conduit Road.

The area to be affected is bounded by No. 7A-37 and 104-158 Conduit Road.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.