



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, February 9, 1974

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Release time: 4.00 p.m.

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CALL FOR TIGHTER SECURITY AT SIU LAM PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE

Board Of Enquiry Submits Recommendations

Improved security measures are needed at the Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre.

A government spokesman said today that this was the finding of the Board of Enquiry into the escape of prisoner Ho Cheung on January 29.

The Board's recommendations included a proposal for a second perimeter fence.

"Their investigation into the circumstances of the escape included a thorough inspection of the buildings at Siu Lam," said the spokesman.

"They reported that these showed a high standard of security, generally meeting the requirements of such an institution.

"The Board found, however, that there was a need to reinforce the perimeter fencing, creating a sterile area with the addition of a second fence to thwart escapes from the inside or rescue attempts from the outside."

The Board also called for a more careful check on the classification of prisoners employed on maintenance tasks and garden work at the centre, to ensure that prisoners with a higher security risk were not engaged in such duties.

With regard to the latter category of prisoner, the report urged immediate consideration of the need for more distinctive clothing, and the spokesman said that a working party had been set up within the Prisons Department to examine this proposal.

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"This working party is also considering other aids to identification, including a change in the prisoners' identity cards, which carry a photograph and thumb print, to introduce a colour code based on classification," said the spokesman.

He added that some of the Board's recommendations had already been acted upon. These included a check of the existing fence in the garden area to guard against further escape.

Commenting on the circumstances leading to the escape of prisoner Ho, the Board considered that disciplinary action should be taken against certain members of the staff at Siu Lam and the spokesman said that appropriate measures would in fact be taken against those named in the report.

"We are conscious of the conflicting interests of an institution involving both therapeutic programmes and security," he added.

"An officer with special responsibility for security at Siu Lam is now under training. He will be appointed to the post within the next few weeks."

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LABORATORY TRAINING ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP

To help young people develop their expertise in group leadership the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department has organized a series of three courses that will use the laboratory method of instruction.

The courses will be of different duration. The first one, an evening course, will commence on March 21 and consist of four sessions being held twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays to be followed by a weekend camp.

This course will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the department's Lady Trench Training Centre in Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai. The weekend camp will take place at the Tsung Tsan Youth Centre in Tai Po. Participation is open to youths aged 17 to 25 of secondary school educational level or above, and all those completing it will receive a certificate.

Mr. Antonio Chu, Officer-in-charge of the Youth Unit, explained that methods to be used in this course will include role-playing and smaller group discussions.

"The laboratory method will be used because its basic philosophy is that people can learn better through experience or experimenting what they do in a secure environment," said Mr. Chu.

"It is participating in such group activities that the youths will be able to develop their sensitivity to their surroundings, as well as achieve a better understanding of themselves and factors of human relationship which are so essential to the development of leadership in a person," he said.

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Applications to join this course can be made to either of the Youth Work Offices in Hong Kong and Kowloon. These are situated in room 908 Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-712467), and on the top floor of the Kowloon Government Building, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel. 3-684111 ext. 331).

Similar courses will be held in April and May.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION AT ABERDEEN

Some 11 acres of new land are to be formed in Aberdeen Harbour to provide land for the widening of Aberdeen Main Road.

The road widening scheme, together with other roadwork projects, will help relieve traffic congestion on the roads both approaching and passing through Aberdeen.

The reclamation is to be formed of foreshore and seabed in Aberdeen Harbour, and will extend from Wu Nam Street to Aberdeen Government Primary School.

A large part of the reclaimed area not devoted to roadwork will be developed as public open areas.

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PUMPING STATION IN CENTRAL

A salt water pumphouse is to be built at Edinburgh Place in Central to provide cooling water for the air-conditioning system of the Murray Road Carpark and the future Murray Building II.

Construction work is expected to begin in April this year and will take about six months to complete.

The pumping station will be constructed below ground level behind the existing seawall near Queen's Pier and will house four pumping units.

To make room for the new pumphouse, the present Albany Nullah near Queen's Pier will be diverted.

The works have been designed by the Port Works Division of the Public Works Department which will supervise the construction.

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IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR TO ATTEND TRAVEL TALKS

The Director of Immigration, Mr. William Collard will leave for Bangkok on Monday (February 11) to represent Hong Kong at the regional facilitation meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Problems on facilitation of movement of passengers at international airports will be discussed among other things.

Mr. Collard will be accompanied by Mr. Ken Smith, Airport General Manager. They are expected to return to Hong Kong on February 21.

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ROAD AND DRAINAGE FACILITIES AT PAK TIN ESTATE

Work will begin shortly to put in roads and drains for the developing public housing estate at Pak Tin.

Upper Pak Tin Estate - mainly used for rehousing people from the Lower Shek Kip Mei Estate which is under re-development -- is at present housing about 16,700 people, including 1,000 who moved there recently from the Tai Hang Sai Cottage Area.

When fully developed towards the middle of 1976, the estate will be able to take in 45,000 people.

A spokesman for the Housing Department said that most of the housing units in Pak Tin Estate will be reserved for the Shek Kip Mei rehousing operation which will probably take another five to six years to complete.

To cope with the expanding population in the estate, a proper bus terminus and a parking area of some 6,000 square yards will also be built.

At present, construction work includes a provision of about 3,000 feet of roadways varying in width from 34 feet for main roads to 20 feet for secondary roads. About 7,400 feet of stormwater drains will also be laid.

Work will begin in about two months and be completed towards the end of next year.

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SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies will be available for collection at 3 p.m. that day from the G.I.S. Press room, 5th floor, Beaconsfield House.

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