DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, May 10, 1973

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Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

Thursday, May 10, 1973

T.K. ANN TO HEAD COMMISSION

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The Government today announced the composition of the commission to examine and report on the underlying causes of the Certificated Masters' dispute and to suggest ways of preventing similar problems arising again.

The Chairman of the commission is Mr. T.K. Ann and the two members are Bishop Francis Hsu and Miss Bobbie M. Kotewall.

Mr. T.K. Ann is well-known as a leading industrialist and has wide experience in the educational field.

He is the Deputy Chairman of the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee and is also the Manager of the Kiangsu-Chekiang College and the Ningpo College.

Mr. Ann, a Legislative Councillor, was appointed an unofficial Justice of the Peace in 1969 and awarded the O.B.E. in 1970.

Bishop Francis Hsu, a member of the Board of Education, was educated at St. John's University, Shanghai and Merton College, Oxford.

He was a lecturer of English at the Fu Tan University in Chungking and then professor of English at the Central University of Nanking.

Bishop Hsu was ordained a priest in 1959 and became the Director of the Catholic Centre in 1961. He was consecrated the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong in 1967.

The Diocese manages almost 180 Catholic primary and secondary schools with an enrolment of about 240,000 students.

/Miss Kotewall .....

Miss Kotewall is a prominent Hong Kong educationalist, who is well-known for her highly independent views on educational matters.

She was appointed Principal of the St. Paul's Co-educational College in 1952 and the high reputation which her school has gained is due largely to her leadership.

She is supervisor of a number of schools and is a member of the School Medical Service Board; the Senate and Convocation of the Hong Kong University; the Grant Schools Council on Secondary Entrance Examination Committee; the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination Board and Executive Committee and the Hong Kong University Advance Level Board.

Miss Kotewall was born in Hong Kong, educated at the Hong Kong University and later received a Diploma in Education from Oxford University. She has taught in a number of schools in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

She was awarded the M.B.E. in 1963.

The terms of reference of the commission are:

To examine the underlying causes of the dispute which has arisen between the Certificated Masters in government and aided-schools and the government, including existing channels of communication and promotion propects: and

To advise on what measures, apart from the newly announced salary scales, should be taken to obviate a recurrence of such a dispute affecting teachers employed in government and aided schools.

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NEW SERIES OF HONG KONG STAMPS

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A new colourful set of Hong Kong stamps is to be issued on June 12 to replace the existing definitive set which has been in use for the past 13 years.

A Post Office spokesman said today that the current set was introduced in 1962 and, except for the issue in 1968 of two replacement stamps for the 65 cent and $1 denominations, has remained unchanged.

The main design feature of the new stamps is a plaster cast of the head of the Queen by Arnold Machin. Another feature will be a panel of flowers freely adapted from a Chinese carved brown lacquer tray from the 17th century or earlier. This panel will run up the left side of the stamps.

The spokesman pointed out that although the Machin head was previously used for the Cross Harbour Tunnel stamp and has also been used in silhouette on various stamp issues of other countries, it is the first time that it has been made the main feature on a stamp.

The background colour of the new stamps will also run from perforation to perforation, instead of being enclosed in a white border as at present.

There will be 14 denominations in the new issue, one less than in the current series, due to the elimination of the five cent stamp.

The nine values up to and including $1 are monochrome and the five remaining higher values are in two colours. All the stamps will be in the vertical format.

/Their exact .....

Their exact colours are: 10c reddish orange; 15c dull yellow green; 20c deep mauve; 25c red brown; 30c ultramarine; 40c turquoise blue; 50c vermillion; 65c ochre; $1 blackish olive; $1.30 reddish violet and greenish yellow; $2 reddish brown and emerald; $5 royal blue and orange vermillion; $10 black olive and crimson; and $20 brownish black and magenta.

The public is invited to see the new definitive stamps at an exhibition to be held in the General Post Office for three days beginning on Monday (May 14). The exhibition, on the first floor landing, will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

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GOVT. CONTINUING WITH PLANS TO REMOVE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES

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There have been encouraging signs this week that some owners and occupiers of flats and other premises at Nos. 1026-1048, King's Road, Quarry Bay, have been taking action on their own initiative to remove unauthorised and potentially dangerous structures.

Mr. James C. Howlett, a Chief Building Surveyor of the Buildings Ordinance Office, said today: "We know for certain that there has been some response. Only a few owners are taking this action, and it's impossible to give a reliable figure at the moment, but we are heartened by the trend and hope it will spread."

"In fact, we think that more and more people may be coming to appreciate the basic reason for preventing the occupants of new buildings from making these unauthorised alterations - the reason being the need to uphold essential standards of safety and public health," he added.

In the meantime, work on erecting scaffolding on the two buildings where notices have been served has been proceeding throughout the week. In cases where owners have not complied with the requirement to demolish the illegal structures, government contractors are expected to start work on demolition next week. The cost, including a supervision fee, will be charged to the individual owners.

Mr. Howlett said: "We hope very much that owners will save themselves some of the cost by getting on with the work themselves. This sort of assignment gives us in the Buildings Ordinance Office no pleasure whatsoever - we would much prefer that people should be spared the expense."

/To reinforce .....

To reinforce this point, a government spokesman today reiterated previous warnings and appeals made to owners of premises throughout Hong Kong. "The moral of the King's Road operation is clear", he said.

"Firstly, people moving into new premises should refrain from putting up unauthorised structures at the outset. Secondly, owners and occupiers who have put up these structures should now be taking action to remove them.

"It is distressing, and unnecessary, that those who have put up such structures and are doing nothing about them are now facing the liability of a double expense :- first the cost of having put the structures up; then the cost of removal, which could in some cases be more than the cost of construction.

"Even though the government contractor will do the work as cheaply as possible, the supervision involved will have to be paid for," the spokesman pointed out.

Appeals

It was also disclosed today that the Building Authority, together with the Fire Services Department which is taking complementary action on these buildings, is refraining, out of consideration for the owners and occupiers, from enforcing the utmost letter of the law.

Some appeals have been allowed against demolition orders in cases where other occupiers are not affected. This means that for the time being various kinds of alterations are being tolerated, including: sliding security doors; cockloft within units; swing doors that do not obstruct common escape routes; and some structures on roof terraces.

/The government .....

The government spokesman commented: "We want to avoid being harsh, but we've got to be firm. Ultimately it is a question of communal safety as well as public health, and the community has a right to insist on being protected. That is why we hope that good sense and social sense will prevail and that action will be taken by co-operation rather than through enforcement."

A total of 863 notices has been served so far on owners of premises in the two buildings - Hoi King and Hoi Sang Mansions. In addition the Fire Services Department has issued a large number of summonses for the removal of hinged steel gates and other structures.

More than 400 units - most of them flats, but including some shops and other premises - are affected.

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PLAYGROUND FOR LAM TIN ESTATE

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A group of open spaces in the Lam Tin public housing estate is to be converted into a combined playground covering an area of more than two acres.

It will be the first playground to be built in area "B" of the estate and will be located between Blocks 17, 19 and 20.

A mini soccer pitch, a basketball court, two badminton courts, merry-go-rounds, swings and slides, flower beds and garden seats will be installed on the playground.

Work is expected to start in mid June and will take about four months.

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SPEED LIMIT TO BE IMPOSED ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD

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A speed limit of 30 miles an hour is to be imposed on virtually the entire length of Lung Cheung Road.

At present this is a derestricted road, but the new limit will come into force from 10 a.m. on Saturday (May 12).

The section of Lung Cheung Road covered by the restriction is from its junction with Fung Mo Street in Wong Tai Sin to the Nam Cheong Street junction.

At the same time, the section of Waterloo Road from Cornwall Street to Lung Cheung Road will also be made a restricted road with a speed limit of 30 miles an hour.

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CROWN LAND AUCTIONS

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Five lots of Crown land, three located in the urban areas and two in the New Territories, will be put on sale by auction on May 25 and 28.

The auctions will be held separately at 2.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room on the 8th floor of the City Hall and the Yuen Long Town Hall in Yuen Long.

Of the five lots of Crown land, four are for non-industrial purposes and one is classified as suitable for industrial or godown usage.

The particulars of the lots are:

1. New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 5462, King Lam Street
   Area: 30,750 square feet
   For industrial and/or godown purposes

2. Shau Kei Wan Inland Lot No. 769, Shau Kei Wan Road
   Area: 1,050 square feet
   For non-industrial purposes

3. Aberdeen Inland Lot No. 378, Tsung Man Street
   Area: 2,542 square feet
   For non-industrial purposes

The two lots in the New Territories are:

1. Castle Peak Town Lot No. 62, Tuen Mun Area 10B
   Area: 3,370 square feet
   For non-industrial purposes

2. Yuen Long Town Lot No. 177, Kau Yuk Road, Yuen Long Central Area
   Area: 3,265 square feet
   For non-industrial purposes.

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41 GROUPS SELECTED FOR YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION

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A total of 41 groups from schools, youth organisations and voluntary welfare agencies have been selected to participate in the forthcoming youth project competition on social welfare in Hong Kong.

Draws for the allocation of booths for the display were held at a recent meeting of representatives of these groups.

At the meeting at the Lady Trench Training Centre in Wanchai the group representatives were also briefed on other details connected with the exhibition.

Some of the themes chosen include public assistance, probation services, services for the elderly, community work, training, and employment placement services for the disabled. The projects will go on display for three days at the Ocean Terminal beginning on the afternoon of Friday, May 18

The competition is organised by the Social Welfare Department in co-operation with the Education Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

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PROCEDURES FOR EXPORT LICENSING

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Licence applications for the shipment of processed and manufactured foodstuffs and electrical products powered by mains supply will be accepted by the Commerce and Industry Department starting from May 25.

A spokesman for the department pointed out to exporters that separate licences would be required for the different items under licensing control as well as for exports and re-exports.

He said that shipping and airline companies had also been reminded of their obligation under the Import and Export Ordinance not to accept "licensable cargo" without a valid export licence.

The reminders follow a recent announcement that all exports and re-exports of these products will be brought under licensing control with effect from June 1.

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DISPUTE OVER RETRENCHMENT SETTLED

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A dispute involving some 120 retrenched employees of the Optimum Electronics Corporation Limited in Kwun Tong has been settled.

All monthly-paid and daily-paid employees today each received a month's wages in lieu of notice and ten days' wages in lieu of notice respectively. The total amount involved was about $47,500.

The factory dismissed all its monthly-paid and daily-paid employees last Thursday (May 3). A series of conciliation meetings were subsequently held at the Kwun Tong Office of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department. As a result, agreement was reached on Tuesday.

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DETAILS OF 1973 GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES

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Note to Editors: The Chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee, Mr. Kai-yin Chau, will give a press conference in the G.I.S. 16 mm theatre at 12 noon tomorrow (Friday).

He will announce details of the plan for the 1973 Government Lotteries.

A film produced by G.I.S. for the committee will also be shown.

Following the press conference a lunch party will be given by the committee at the City Hall Restaurant at 12.45 p.m.

Representatives of the press are cordially invited to attend.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.