



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1977.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1977

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT HAS CONTROLLED  
TRAFFICKING, TRIADS AND CORRUPTION  
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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY TACKLED THE THREE EVILS -- TRAFFICKING, TRIADS AND CORRUPTION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER, MR. TOM GARNER AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF LIONS CLUB OF BAYVIEW THIS AFTERNOON.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGAGING IN SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD ALWAYS BE PRESENT IN PENAL INSTITUTION, IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT ANYONE DOING SO WOULD BE CAUGHT AND PUNISHED.

+TO THIS END,+ MR. GARNER STRESSED, +WE MAINTAIN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.+

+COOPERATION IS OF COURSE TWO WAY AND, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY COMPLETED FOR ICAC A TWO-WEEK COURSE AT OUR STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THEIR STAFF WHO ARE ENGAGED ON CUSTODIAL WORK,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, MR. GARNER CLARIFIED SOME ASPECTS OF THE REORGANISATION WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

HE SAID: +TO SOME PEOPLE, REORGANISATION WOULD BE REFERRED TO AS REFORM- HOWEVER, I AM SUSPICIOUS OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE WORD REFORM HAS BEEN USED IN MANY COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS, FOR SOME 'SO CALLED REFORMS' HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN CHANGE AMOUNTING TO THE BUYING OF PRISONER COOPERATION.

+THIS, I ASSURE YOU IS NOT THE CASE IN THE REORGANISATION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THE PRISONS HERE. INDEED, FAR FROM IT, A PRISONER TODAY HAS A MUCH MORE ARDUOUS LIFE WITH FIRM DISCIPLINE AND IMPROVED SURVEILLANCE THAN WAS THE CASE SEVERAL YEARS AGO.+

MR. GARNER THEN BRIEFLY REFERRED TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS +A LITTLE OF WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN STANLEY PRISON+ NOTING THAT THERE WAS A WELCOME DROP IN THE POPULATION FROM 2,515 IN MAY LAST YEAR TO 1,964 TODAY.

+THIS PRISON HOLDS THE MAJORITY OF THE MORE VIOLENT ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN OFFENDERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE SERVING LONG SENTENCES, AND SOME OF WHOM WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE, ENGAGE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OR IN GENERAL CREATE TROUBLE FOR THE STAFF AND OTHER PRISONERS,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. GARNER POINTED OUT THAT THE BUILDING OF AN ADDITIONAL BLOCK TO HOLD 80 PRISONERS HAD ENABLED EFFECTIVE SEGREGATION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO BE ACHIEVED.

/THIS ACTS .....

THIS ACTS AS A DETERRENT TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PRISONERS WHO WANT NO PART OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH IS ENFORCED IN THIS BLOCK, INCLUDING THE VERY RIGID DISCIPLINE, THE VERY CLOSE SUPERVISION AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF A PRISON RULE WHICH ALLOWS FOR A PRISONER TO WORK IN HIS CELL.

+THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NOW SOME 20 EMPTY CELLS IN THIS BLOCK IS A WELCOME SIGN ALTHOUGH WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT WILL NOT STAY THAT WAY FOR LONG,+ HE SAID.

THE REDUCTION IN THE POPULATION OF STANLEY PRISON HAS ENABLED THE DEPARTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE MORE LONG-TERM PRISONERS, ONE PER CELL AS OPPOSED TO THREE PER CELL WHICH IS NORMALLY THE RULE WHEN SEVERE OVERCROWDING OCCURS. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE SOME 1,286 PRISONERS ACCOMMODATED ONE PER CELL AND 678 PRISONERS THREE PER CELL.

ON JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT WE HAD NOW ACHIEVED A POSITION WHEREBY ALL YOUNG OFFENDERS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 WERE HOUSED IN SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION. THEY WERE ALSO EXPOSED TO PROGRAMMES ESPECIALLY GEARED TO THEIR NEEDS (THAT IS APART FROM SOME 10 YOUNG OFFENDERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY GRADED CATEGORY 'A' AND WHO ARE HOUSED IN STANLEY PRISON FOR SECURITY REASONS).

+HOWEVER, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, THEY TOO WILL BE TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE,+ MR. GARNER SAID. +THIS IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT AND SOMETHING WHICH IS AS YET TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE U.K. AND IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.+

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THIS REFLECTED THE CONCERN OF THE AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT PRISONERS WERE ADEQUATELY ACCOMMODATED AND LOOKED AFTER.

+FOR LET US MAKE NO MISTAKE,+ HE EMPHASISED, +PRISONERS ARE PEOPLE AND WE MUST AT ALL TIMES PRESERVE THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES WHICH ARE CLEARLY LAID DOWN FOR OUR PROFESSION. THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR FIRM DISCIPLINE, CONTROL AND GOOD SUPERVISION, BUT ABSOLUTELY NONE FOR BRUTALITY OR INADEQUATE TREATMENT.+

MR. GARNER REVEALED THAT ON AUGUST 1, THE DEPARTMENT HAD EMBARKED ON A NEW SCHEME FOR A YOUNG ADULT DETENTION CENTRE WHICH WOULD CATER FOR THE 21 - 24 AGE GROUP. THIS PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR A MINIMUM DETENTION PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND A MAXIMUM OF 12 MONTHS FOLLOWED BY A COMPULSORY PERIOD OF ONE YEAR'S AFTER-CARE. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE PROGRAMME FOR THE UNDER 21 WHICH PROVIDES FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE MONTH TO A MAXIMUM OF SIX.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE COMMISSIONER SAID, THE DETENTION CENTRE PROGRAMME WHICH HAS NOW BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR OVER FIVE YEARS WAS A SUCCESS.

REFERRING TO THE RECENT CREATION OF A POST FOR GENERAL MANAGER OF PRISON INDUSTRIES, THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE HOPED THIS VACANCY WOULD BE FILLED BY SEPTEMBER.

ALTHOUGH TOO EARLY TO TALK IN CONCRETE TERMS OF RETURNS, MR. GARNER SAID THAT GIVEN SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN STAFF, EQUIPMENT AND WORKSHOP SPACE, THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT IN ABOUT THREE YEARS FROM NOW THE TOTAL TURNOVER IN FINANCIAL TERMS FROM PRISON INDUSTRIES WOULD DOUBLE BRINGING IT UP TO ABOUT \$26 MILLION WITH A PROBABLE NET SAVING TO GOVERNMENT OF AROUND \$14 MILLION A YEAR.

+ I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS CAN BE FURTHER EXPANDED SO THE TURNOVER COULD AMOUNT TO SOME \$50 MILLION WITH OF COURSE MUCH GREATER SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT.+

ON THE ROLE OF DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT THEY CONTINUE TO CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST TREATMENT FACILITY IN HONG KONG WHICH HAS THE AIM OF TAKING PEOPLE PERMANENTLY OFF DRUGS.

+ I HAVE OFTEN SAID, AND I MAKE NO EXCUSE FOR REPEATING IT, THAT IN THIS AREA HONG KONG LEADS THE WORLD FOR ITS ENLIGHTENED APPROACH TO THE TREATMENT OF ADDICTS WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.+

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MAF CREDIT INVESTIGATION  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS APPOINTED MR. MICHAEL J. JOHNSON, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, OF MESSRS. ARTHUR ANDERSEN AND COMPANY AS INSPECTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF MAF CREDIT LIMITED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 143 (C) (III) OF THE COMPANIES' ORDINANCE CAP. 32.

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OVER 80 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JUNE  
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A TOTAL OF 83 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED IN JUNE BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT -- THE HIGHEST MONTHLY TOTAL THIS YEAR.

THIS BRINGS TO 378 THE NUMBER OF BUILDING PLANS APPROVED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

OF THE 83 NEW PLANS APPROVED IN JUNE, 26 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 26 FOR KOWLOON AND 31 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR A SCHOOL FOR SLOW LEARNING CHILDREN AT SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, A HOSPITAL EXTENSION AT WATERLOO ROAD, AND A KINDERGARTEN AT WAH FU ESTATE.

PLANS FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL AT KWAI CHUNG, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION AT THE JUNCTION OF ARGYLE AND SHAMCHUN STREETS, AND A 30-STOREY APARTMENT-COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, WERE ALSO APPROVED.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$202.25 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$123.3 MILLION FOR MAY THIS YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING JUNE THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO 193,215.5 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 143,811.3 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 49,404.2 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE B.O.O. GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 60 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING A CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AT POKFULAM ROAD, A SCHOOL AT SYCAMORE STREET, A HOME FOR THE AGED AT THE JUNCTION OF KUNG LOK ROAD AND HONG KEE ROAD AND A BUS DEPOT AT TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

+FORTY-SIX NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI YIP STREET AND TWO SCHOOLS AT TAI PO MARKET AND KIU KIANG STREET.

THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO CONSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 39 BUILDINGS.

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7 PER CENT INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT AT BUILDING  
AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN JUNE

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THE NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED AT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES HAS RISEN TO 58,390 IN JUNE, ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 3,860 WORKERS OR 7 PER CENT OVER MARCH. COMPARED WITH JUNE LAST YEAR, EMPLOYMENT IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADE ROSE BY 15,630 WORKERS OR 37 PER CENT.

THERE WERE 1,120 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN OPERATION IN JUNE 1977 AND 800 SITES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 33,510 WORKERS, AN INCREASE OF 740 WORKERS OR 2 PER CENT OVER MARCH 1977.

DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH TO JUNE, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ENGAGED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES TENDERED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENTS WAS 18,380, AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT. EMPLOYMENT AT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED AT MTR SITES TO 6,510.

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GRANTS APPROVED FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION

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A TOTAL OF 140 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

THE GRANTS, TOTALLING \$429,000, WILL ENABLE THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED TO PROVIDE VARIOUS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD PEOPLE.

THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION WAS SET UP IN 1970 TO ENABLE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED FOR RECREATION, SPORT, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SO THAT THEY MAY USE THEIR LEISURE TIME IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE FUND, SAID THAT APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR 1978/79 WOULD BE INVITED LATER THIS YEAR.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE IN BOTH THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE NEWSPAPERS AROUND MID-DECEMBER, AND THE NECESSARY APPLICATION FORMS WOULD THEN BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREAS, AND FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS CAS CAMP

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LADY MACLEHOSE THIS MORNING VISITED THE CIVIL AID SERVICES YUEN TUN CAMP AT TSING LUNG TAU IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND SAW SOME 250 C.A.S. CADETS TAKING PART IN VARIOUS CAMPING ACTIVITIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE C.A.S. CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR. JOHN FORTUNE AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE C.A.S. CADET CORPS, MR. NORMAN LEUNG, LADY MACLEHOSE FIRST VISITED A GROUP OF CADETS ENGAGED IN MAP-READING.

SHE WAS SHOWN A MODEL OF THE 50-ACRE CAMP SITE AND WAS BRIEFED BY MR. FORTUNE ON FACILITIES IN THE CAMP WHICH INCLUDE A SWIMMING POOL, A BASKETBALL COURT, A FISH POND AND A PUTTING FIELD.

SHE ALSO SAW SOME OF THE CADETS UNDERGOING A LIFE-SAVING COURSE IN THE SWIMMING POOL, AND VISITED THE OBSTACLE COURSE TRAINING AREA WHERE ANOTHER GROUP OF CADETS WAS LEARNING ROPE-CLIMBING.

DURING THE HOUR-LONG VISIT, LADY MACLEHOSE PAUSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO TALK TO THE CADETS AND ENQUIRED ABOUT THE TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE CAMP.

THE CAMP WAS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE LAST APRIL. IT PROVIDES A CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND LAND-ORIENTED TRAINING FOR C.A.S. MEMBERS, CADETS AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

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