



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, September 7, 1972

LONG TERM REMEDIAL WORKS FOR KOTEWALL ROAD LANDSLIP:

GOVERNMENT TO RESUME TWO PROPERTIES

Certain properties in the Conduit Road/Kotewall Road landslip area in the Mid-Levels will be resumed in order to allow large-scale engineering works to be carried out.

The Director of Public Works, Mr. A.S. Robertson, said today that these works were essential to make the area safe.

The properties to be resumed are Nos. 51 C and D Conduit Road. They will be resumed to enable the construction of a retaining slope from Conduit Road to Po Shan Road.

Mr. Robertson said he was satisfied that all possible short-term measures had been taken to make the disaster area safe from the effect of further rainfall.

"However the possibility of further landslips in the area could not be completely ruled out."

"I now propose to forge ahead with long-term measures to make the area safe," he said.

"It is planned to begin these works in mid-October and to complete them before next summer's rains."

Wells have

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Wells have been sunk on the site of 51C and D Conduit Road to drain the waterlogged material immediately below the landslip. Engineers have cut and cleared drainage channels above and around the landslip to divert the flow of rainwater into safe watercourses.

The surface of the landslip face has been waterproofed and all loose materials are being removed from the slip face. Dangerous boulders above the slip are either being made safe or removed.

The Director of Public Works said it was now clear from the investigations carried out that some buildings in the area may have to remain closed until the permanent works have been substantially completed.

These buildings are:

No. 51, Conduit Road (Skyline Mansions)

No. 36, Kotewall Road (Emerald Gardens)

No. 125, Robinson Road

Nos. 10 to 16, Po Shan Road

No. 21, Po Shan Road

Nos. 47, 53 and 55 Conduit Road

Skyline Mansions, Emerald Gardens and 125 Robinson Road were all damaged by the landslip. Investigations into the possibility of repairs to Skyline Mansions and Emerald Gardens will begin as soon as all debris has been removed.

Officers of the Buildings Ordinance Office are in touch with the architects who will have to satisfy the Buildings Authority that they can render the buildings safe.

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Mr. Robertson said that although the buildings themselves at No. 21 and Nos. 10 to 16 Po Shan Road were not damaged by the landslip, they had to be closed because of the general condition of the area. Similarly Nos. 47, 53 and 55 Conduit Road were not damaged by the landslip but they have been closed, and must remain closed, until the risk to Nos. 10 to 16 and 21 Po Shan Road is removed.

Major remedial works have to be carried out in the vicinity of these properties, and it may not be possible for them to be re-occupied until these works have been substantially completed by about May next year.

"Residents of all these premises will be informed, at the earliest possible moment, when it is considered safe for them to re-occupy their homes and the position will be frequently reviewed," Mr. Robertson said.

On the longer term permanent remedial measures to be taken, the Director said it would be necessary to lay down a rock drainage blanket over the entire slipped area.

"The volume of the slip will have to be refilled with well-drained and compacted material, in a terraced slope up from Conduit Road. This includes the whole site of 51C and 51D, Conduit Road."

"It will also be necessary to cut off a substantial part of the overhanging hill which is endangering the area above the present slip."

"These extensive works cannot safely begin until the end of the rainy season and they should be substantially completed before next summer."

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HONG KONG'S DECLINING BIRTH RATE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED

Recent trends in marriage and fertility in Hong Kong indicate that the fertility rates among women in specific age groups will continue to decline for some years giving rise to a further lowering in the birth rate.

However, this decrease is expected to be somewhat slower than the rapid change experienced in the sixties.

A special review article in the latest edition of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, published by the Census and Statistics Department, says that Hong Kong's annual birth rate has dropped from 35 to 36 births per one-thousand of the population in 1961 to 19.7 in 1971. This represents a fall of 43 per cent over a 10-year period.

The reason for the decline in the birth-rate is attributed to a combination of four factors:

- * a decrease in the number of women of child-bearing age;
- * a decrease in the proportion of women who marry in the productive child-bearing years;
- * the postponement of child-bearing;
- * a fall in the fertility rate of married women

The article says that women in the older fertility age-groups in Hong Kong still prefer to have a large number of children. But once these women have passed the reproductive age in a few years and are replaced by younger women who now generally accept the practice of family planning, the fertility rate will drop substantially.

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The facts put forward in the article are supported by statistics drawn from an analysis of the 1971 population census and should be of interest to those studying the population problems of Hong Kong.

The Digest is on sale today and is available at \$4 a copy from the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong.

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ACTING GOVERNOR SENDS LETTER OF SYMPATHY TO ISRAELI CONSUL-GENERAL

The Acting Governor, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, today sent a message of sympathy to the Honorary Consul-General of Israel in Hong Kong, Mr. V.J. Zirinsky, over the killing of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team in Munich.

Sir Hugh said he was "shocked" to learn of the slaughter and extended his "deepest sympathy in this appalling tragedy."

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ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION

Electrical works on the 2,530-foot Hong Kong Airport runway extension are to start shortly.

The works, which form the third and final stage of the runway extension project, will cost about \$3.5 million.

They include the supply and installation of airfield lighting fittings, lighting control equipment, electricity power supply plant as well as all the associated cabling.

It is expected that the works will take about 12 months, and on completion, the extension of the runway, additional taxiway and a by-pass/sequencing area will be available for use by aircraft.

The \$3.5 million extension - among the biggest projects in the Public Works programme - is designed by Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Partners, consulting civil engineers, who are supervising its construction.

The electrical aspect of the works has been designed in association with their sub-consultants, Preece Cardew and Rider of Brighton, U.K.

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RABIES PREVENTION BOOKLET PUBLISHED

Do you keep a dog at home? If you do, has it been licensed and inoculated against rabies?

Under the provisions of the Dogs and Cats Ordinance, anyone keeping a dog over the age of three months without a licence is liable to a fine of \$1,000 and to imprisonment for six months.

This is one of the many control measures taken by the Government to ensure that Hong Kong remains free from rabies.

Other measures include quarantine of all dogs and cats entering Hong Kong from abroad.

A descriptive booklet, drawing the public's attention to the licensing requirement for dogs and giving an account of the control measures taken to prevent an outbreak of rabies, has been prepared by the Government Information Services in conjunction with the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

Entitled "Rabies Prevention in Hong Kong", it tells the story of the fatal disease -- its history, its incidences in Hong Kong before 1955, its symptoms in dogs and in man, its cause and transmission and its prevention.

Rabies, if it occurs, can be a very real menace to public health.

The potential danger may be reduced to a minimum by the whole-hearted co-operation of the community with the government in preventive measures.

The booklet urges all members of the public who are keeping dogs which have not been licensed, in other words, dogs which have not been inoculated against rabies either, to realise the serious nature of their offence.

Copies of the booklet, in both English and Chinese, are available at the Dog Licensing and Inoculation Centres of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and at all City District Offices.

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ANOTHER PHASE OF MAJOR KOWLOON ROAD PROJECT APPROVED

Another phase of the Kowloon Foothills Corridor project, this time consisting of an extension of Ching Cheung Road to Kwai Chung Road, has been approved by the Finance Committee.

The work will cost some \$21 million and is expected to start early next year for completion by 1974.

When it is completed, the recently built Kwai Chung Road will be brought into full use by connecting the container terminal to the Corridor, which runs across northern Kowloon to the industrial town of Kwun Tong.

Much of the present volume of goods and passenger traffic generated by Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung will also be diverted away from congested roads on the Kowloon peninsula.

The proposed extension carries Ching Cheung Road, presently being widened to a dual two-lane carriageway, around Lai Chi Kok Bay to join Kwai Chung Road near the western end of the Lai Chi Kok Bay Bridge.

Part of the extension across the northern shore of Lai Chi Kok Bay will be raised on an overpass structure to provide headroom for traffic to Lai Chi Kok valley. The remainder of the road across the head of the Bay will be built on an embankment with a pedestrian subway underneath.

An interchange system will be built near the new Lai Chi Kok Hospital where the extended road connects with Kwai Chung Road.

A section of Kwai Chung Road itself will be widened to provide a collector-distributor road on each side.

This will permit traffic to weave to and from the Kwai Chung container terminal and the hospital, without interfering with the main traffic flow.

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To the east, the existing grade-separated interchange joining Ching Cheung Road with Castle Peak Road will be modified to provide for all major traffic movements together with an uninterrupted flow of traffic along the two roads.

With the inclusion of this newest phase of work on the western-most end of the Kowloon Foothills Corridor, the project now comprises 12 work items. Nine are scheduled for completion in 1974 and the remaining ones in 1975.

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WONG TAI SIN WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of houses in Wong Tai Sin will be interrupted for five hours beginning from 1 a.m. on Saturday (September 9).

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area to be affected is bounded by Tsz Wan Shan Road, Wan Wah Street, Sheung Fung Street and Tsz Wan Shan Resettlement Estate Blocks 4 to 32.

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SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR WORKERS ENGAGED ON "UNPLEASANT WORK"

Over 10,000 workers of foreman rank and below in the Urban Services and Resettlement Departments who are employed on obnoxious and unpleasant work are to receive a special allowance of \$45 a month as from October 1.

A small number of staff in the Public Works and Urban Services Departments are already receiving this allowance but the new arrangements announced today will make many more workers eligible.

The main labour force in the Cleansing Division and in the Abattoir Section of the Abattoirs, Hawkers and Markets Division and the New Territories Division of the U.S.D. as well as in the Resettlement Department will now benefit from the allowance.

The award of the "dirty work" allowance is in addition to the recent 10 per cent pay increase and revised cost of living allowance awarded to workers paid on Model Scale I. The revised cost of living allowance automatically increases by \$15 for every five point rise in the Modified Consumer Price Index for men and a proportionate increase for women.

This means that there is a built-in arrangement for the cost of living allowance to rise should the cost of living go up.

The extra cost of meeting payments of the "dirty work" allowance will be about \$6 million for a full year.

Some 7,000 workers in the U.S.D. and about 3,500 in the Resettlement Department will be eligible for the allowance. They include labourers, gangers, chargemen, and foremen engaged on street sweeping and estate cleansing, refuse collection duties, demolition work, disinfecting duty, grave digging, in cremation, burial and exhumation work and squatter clearance.

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The announcement of the allowance scheme was welcomed by Mr. Wong Man-yui, Assistant Director (Cleansing), Urban Services Department.

Mr. Wong said: "I am very happy to hear that workers involved in this unpleasant work will be compensated. This should help in recruiting staff for the Cleansing Division which will be fully engaged in the months ahead with the 'Clean Hong Kong Campaign'."

Mr. J.N. Black, Assistant Commissioner (Administration/Operations), Resettlement Department, also welcomed the new arrangements. He said that among those who would benefit from the allowance were workers who carry out unpleasant and sometimes dangerous work, like the demolition of illegal structures.

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PRESENTATION TO SUMMER YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

A souvenir presentation ceremony to honour a group of volunteers who assisted in the summer youth programme will be held at the Mariners' Club, Middle Road, Kowloon tomorrow (Friday) afternoon.

The volunteers will receive pennants from the Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary (Social Services), Mr. P.B. Williams and Mrs. Williams.

Some 200 young people from various districts registered with the Association of Volunteers for Service this summer to help run such activities as camps, service projects, study courses and recreation centres.

A co-ordinating committee was set up by the Association to deal with the recruitment and placement of volunteer workers.

The presentation will be followed by an entertainment programme including singing and dancing by members of the Boys' & Girls' Club Association, the Heep Hong Club and students of Pelletier Hall.

Note to Editors: The presentation ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. at the Assembly Hall of the Mariners' Club in Middle Road tomorrow (Friday). You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event.

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CROWN LAND SALE

Three lots of crown land in Chai Wan and another at Red Hill on Hong Kong Island will be auctioned at the City Hall later this month.

All three Chai Wan Lots are for industrial and godown purposes. The largest, consisting of an area of 14,200 square feet has an upset price of \$1,710,000. The two other lots measuring 11,730 and 11,670 square feet have the same upset price of \$1,400,000.

Rural building lot No. 941 at Red Hill off Tai Tam Road has an area of 65,000 square feet and is reserved for private residential purposes. Its upset price is \$2,500,000.

The auction will be held on September 29 at 2.30 p.m.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from and Sale Plans inspected at the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), ground floor, Hong Kong and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, 10th floor, Kowloon.

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KOWLOON KITCHEN BLOCKS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The kitchen blocks of two buildings and a section of a third block all in Kowloon were declared dangerous today by the Building Authority.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that during a routine survey of the area it was found that the reinforced concrete columns to the kitchen blocks of 99 and 101 Fuk Wa Street, both four-storey pre-war buildings, were seriously spalled and the steel reinforcement badly corroded.

The condition is such that there is a risk of collapse.

The other building, also four-storey and pre-war, is at 23 Cedar Street. The chimney stack and brick work at the rear portion of the kitchen block are fractured and liable to collapse.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in the Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 28 for the Cedar Street kitchen block and on October 5 for the first, second and third floors of the kitchen blocks of 99 and 101 Fuk Wa Street were posted today.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.