



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, December 22, 1972

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TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL PAVES WAY

For New Television Stations

Tenders To Be Called As Soon As Bill Becomes Law

A Bill amending the Television Ordinance is published in today's Gazette for public information and will be introduced into the Legislative Council for its first reading early next month. As soon as the Bill becomes law tenders will be called for Hong Kong's two new television stations. This means that tender notices inviting applications for the two licences could be published within the next few weeks.

This was stated today by Mr. Nigel Watt, Commissioner for Television and Films. Mr. Watt pointed out that although both services will be advertised simultaneously they are unlikely to come 'on-air' simultaneously since a longer tender period will be required for the third service in order to permit a measure of phasing in the allocation of frequencies and to provide more time to discuss with prospective tenderers any special programme services they may wish to offer.

The Commissioner said that he expects the tender period for the second licence which will include both a Chinese and an English Service to be open for three months. The separate licence for a third Chinese service will be open for an additional period of up to nine months. This extra time would be shortened if possible since it was policy to bring both the new services into operation with the minimum delay.

/Amplifying

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Amplifying the reasons for this time differential Mr. Watt referred to the technical problems. He said, "It must be remembered that under international conventions Hong Kong is permitted to use only a limited number of frequencies for television broadcasting. In fitting the future services into the frequency bands the maximum use has been made of all the available channels. We have made careful engineering checks and computer checks on our proposed frequency plan to reduce to a minimum the risk of any interference between one programmes service and another but the final test can only be made when the new transmitters themselves are tested. Once all the proposed services are operating the available frequencies will be in full use and it will be difficult to make subsequent frequency changes if such prove necessary. Phasing of these new services will make it easier to make such adjustments and thus will minimise the risk of viewers having their programmes disrupted."

With regard to special programme services, Mr. Watt added that details will be contained in the tender notices.

The provision of such services would not be a condition of tender. However, if tenderers volunteer such services it might assist the overall spread of programming in the public interest. The longer tender period will enable this to be done against the background of the proposed programme schedules of the successful applicant for the second station together with TVB's current schedules.

Referring to the Bill, the Commissioner said that the Television Ordinance when amended by the proposed legislation would apply equally to all television stations in Hong Kong.

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The Bill proposed a number of changes to the Ordinance particularly in respect of the composition of licensee companies and share-holdings, the composition of the Television Advisory Board, the amount of permitted advertising time and rate of royalty.

The proposed legislation under the amending bill will require television stations licensed under the Ordinance to ensure that at least 25% of the voting shares of the company are held by people resident in Hong Kong at the time the licence is awarded and that this percentage should be increased to not less than 51% during the four years immediately following the granting of the licence. It will also require a licensee within four years of the grant of the licence to list at least 25% of his voting shares with a recognised stock exchange in Hong Kong. The amending bill makes it clear that the sole business of a licensee company shall be the business of television and a company who have been granted a licence will not be able to acquire a controlling interest, or own more than 49% of the voting shares, of any other company not directly connected with the operation of a television broadcasting service.

With regard to the permitted level of advertising time the present overall maximum of 10% in relation to total transmission time is retained but the number of minutes of advertising permitted in any one hour will be increased from 7 minutes in the hour to 10 minutes in the hour. In the past with one television service licensed under the Television Ordinance and one service licensed separately, maximum hourly advertising levels have varied between 7 and 16 minutes. The new level of a ten minute maximum in the hour is considered to be a more realistic figure in the light of this past experience and in the circumstances of competitive wireless television in the future.

/The bill also

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The bill also proposes that the rate of royalty should in future be assessed on the net profits of a station rather than on its gross takings as at present. It is considered a more equitable way of assessing royalty with three stations broadcasting wireless television in competition with one another.

The bill also makes provision for the addition of a third public member on the Television Advisory Board. It also provides that the Board should publish reports on the progress of television in Hong Kong at least once every 18 months and that these reports shall be tabled in the Legislative Council.

RTV will be offered a temporary extension to its franchise to bridge the gap until the first of the two new wireless stations comes 'on-air'. Once this interim extension has expired it is the intention that there shall be no monopoly in wire services provided that they only relay all the television programmes of the wireless broadcasting television licensees. It is expected that such services will be operated on a district basis to help television viewers get better reception in areas where reception is poor.

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MOTORCYCLISTS MUST WEAR CRASH HELMETS

Legislation To Be Introduced Shortly

Amending legislation to enable regulations to be made for the compulsory wearing of crash helmets by motorcyclists and their pillion passengers is to be introduced in the Legislative Council shortly.

The Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973 also enables regulations to be made to provide controls on the sale, hiring out and possession of such protective helmets.

Commenting on the proposed new measures, a Government spokesman said the Government was gravely concerned with the increasing number of serious motorcycle accidents "in which the absence of crash helmets is considered to be a major factor."

The spokesman recalled that the police had on a number of occasions publicly advised motorcyclists and their pillion riders to wear protective helmets, but this advice, he added, "regrettably appears to have been largely ignored."

"It is therefore considered that legislation should be enacted to ensure that suitable protective helmets are worn at all times by motorcyclists and their passengers."

Similar legislation has been in force for some time in many countries and was recently enacted in the United Kingdom.

The Bill also provides for the repeal and replacement of two sections of the Principal Ordinance.

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One of the revised sections obliges registered owners of vehicles and other people to furnish to the police particulars of the identity of the driver of a vehicle at the time of a suspected offence under the Ordinance.

A demand for such information may be made orally or in writing within three months after the date of the alleged offence.

The information must be given to a specified police officer within twenty one days after the date of the demand.

If the demand is made in writing, the information must be given in the form of a written statement signed by the person making it.

Failure to comply with such a demand will be an offence carrying a maximum penalty of a fine of \$2,000 and six months imprisonment.

Under the other revised section, a statement given in response to such a demand will be admissible as evidence in proceedings for an offence under the Ordinance if it is signed by the person charged with the offence.

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NEW COPYRIGHT LAW FOR HONG KONG

Greater Protection For Original Works

Hong Kong is to have a new copyright law which will provide more adequate protection to original works such as recording, tape recording, books and literary and artistic works.

Announcing this today, a Government spokesman said that with effect from January 1 next year, the United Kingdom Copyright Act 1911 would be replaced by the United Kingdom Copyright Act 1956 as amended by the United Kingdom Design Copyright Act 1968.

The 1956 Act would also give protection to industrial designs.

The spokesman pointed out that Government had received complaints from overseas companies concerning the copying or pirating in Hong Kong of designs developed in foreign countries.

The Order in Council applying the 1956 Act to Hong Kong is published in today's Gazette.

After the Act has been introduced, the spokesman said local regulations would be made under the Act to give specific copyright protection in respect of libraries and the record industry.

"These regulations are already being considered by Government departments," the spokesman said.

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As a result of the new legislation, Hong Kong would give copyright protection to works originating in countries which are members of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the Universal Copyright Convention, and would receive reciprocal protection from those countries.

Apart from the Act and the regulations to be made under it, the spokesman said Government was also considering the enactment of supplementary local copyright legislation.

This legislation, he added, would repeal the Copyright Ordinance and the Fine Arts Copyright Ordinance and would modify the United Kingdom 1956 Act in certain respects to suit the particular circumstances of Hong Kong.

"This legislation will be put to the Legislative Council in the near future," he said.

The United Kingdom 1911 Act, together with the Copyright and Fine Arts Ordinances, form the basis of the present Copyright law in Hong Kong.

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PROPOSED SITE FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY ON TSING YI

Tenders Expected To Be Called Next Year

The Government is to make available to developers five acres of land on Tsing Yi Island suitable for heavy industry.

The proposed site, which is located on the south-east side of the island, will have an extensive sea frontage to deep water. It will also have good road access to the mainland when the Tsing Yi bridge is completed towards the end of 1973 or early 1974.

A government spokesman said today it was expected that the use of the site would be restricted to the automotive industry, including the manufacture of internal combustion engines.

The conditions governing the use of the site will also contain a building covenant requiring the construction of factory buildings.

Tenders will be called sometime during the early part of 1973. It is expected that the sale of the site will also be advertised internationally in view of the expected heavy demand for land on the island with the advent of the Tsing Yi bridge.

Action is currently in hand regarding the processing of the Conditions of Tender and one of the conditions will be that the successful tenderer forms about one-third of the area of the site utilising Crown land for this purpose.

The area of Crown land to be used as a "borrow area" will be stipulated within the Sale Conditions.

A notice gazetted today under the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance
/A notice
calls on all those having objections to the granting of such a lease or claims of private right in the matter, to submit their objections or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two mon

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A notice gazetted today under the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance calls on all those having objections to the granting of such a lease or claims of private right in the matter, to submit their objections or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months of the date of the notice.

The notification, in both English and Chinese, has also been posted on notice boards near the site.

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BISHOP HSU TO VISIT TRAINING CENTRE ON BOXING DAY

The Bishop of Hong Kong, the Rt. Rev. Francis Hsu, will be visiting the residents of the Tai Tam Gap Training Centre on Boxing Day (December 26).

For the past eleven years, Bishop Hsu has paid similar visits to institutions of the Prisons Department to ensure that inmates do not feel left out during the seasonal festivities.

He will be accompanied on the visit by the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T.G. Garner, and the visiting Chaplain of all the Training Centres, the Rev. Father S. Edmonds.

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Note to Editors: You are welcome to send a reporter and/or photographer to have the visit covered. Bishop Hsu will arrive at the Centre at 3 p.m.

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PLANT BUILDING FOR DESALTER

Steelwork To Be Put Up Next October

Hong Kong's desalting plant project at Castle Peak took another step forward today when tenders were called for the design and supply of the structural steelwork for the auxiliary plant building.

The auxiliary plant building consists of a main hall and a two-storey annexe.

The main hall will house all the main pumping equipment and six turbine generating sets.

The annexe will be subdivided into galleries for switchgear, cables and boiler auxiliaries.

Erection of the steelwork is expected to start in October next year.

The desalting plant will be the largest of its kind in the world, with a daily output of 40 million gallons of fresh water.

The first of its six units is expected to be operational by mid-1974.

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RESTRAINED COTTON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO U.K.

A notice on the export of Restrained Cotton and Polyester/Cotton Textiles to the United Kingdom has been issued to exporters by the Director of Commerce and Industry.

The notice concerns the principles of quota allocation, for the cotton sector of the combined quota in the period from January 1 to December 31, 1973, together with other control arrangements which are to be applied next year.

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

People who wish to seek advance notice of the contents are invited to obtain copies of this notice from the Textiles Licensing Office on the 2nd floor, or from the receptionist on the ground floor of the Fire Brigade Building, or to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:-

Mr. H.T.W. Lau - Assistant Trade Officer

Tel. No. 5-430719

Mr. C.K. Ng - Industry Assistant

Tel. No. 5-446789

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SHEK KIP MEI REHOUSING SCHEME

More Shop Tenants Have Applied For Premises At Pak Tin

More shop tenants involved in the first phase of the Shek Kip Mei Rehousing Scheme have applied for Pak Tin business premises since modifications to the reprovision arrangements were presented to them last Thursday.

More applications are expected in the next few days.

The modifications included rent rebates for the first two years when they take up Pak Tin business premises and ex-gratia cash compensation in lieu of reprovisioning.

Some of these applicants had been successful in taking over other Shek Kip Mei shops in the same phase to make them eligible for a large shop in Pak Tin Government Estate.

Commenting on the arrangements, a spokesman for the Resettlement Department said: "This is certainly a good opportunity for those who wish to expand the scale of their business."

He pointed out that those shop tenants could now apply for cash compensation in lieu of business premises. They could still choose to transfer their Shek Kip Mei shops to other interested tenants to give them additional footage for larger business premises in Pak Tin under the foot-for-foot reprovisioning scheme.

The closing date for the shop tenants to apply for reprovisioning or cash compensation is January 3, 1973.

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The spokesman urged those who have still not applied to send in their applications before the closing date.

He said that it was in their own interest to apply early as the time for the final evacuation of the blocks in the current phase has been set on February 26, 1973.

Meanwhile, some shop tenants have filed another letter to the Resettlement Department asking to retain their shops after conversion.

A reply has been given to them telling them that the previous decision not to allow the shop tenants to remain in situ after conversion must stand.

The spokesman reiterated that it would be impossible to allow shop tenants to remain in situ because the future population of the redeveloped Shek Kip Mei would be reduced to about half of the present size and this reduced population would not be able to sustain the existing number of shops.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,424 tenancies at Pak Tin Estate have been let and about 600 families have moved into their new accommodation.

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RESULTS OF POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Winners Picked From Over 300 Entries

A sixteen-year-old girl student has been awarded the first prize in the senior section of a Secondary School Anti-Narcotics Poster Design Competition sponsored by the Education and Publicity Sub-Committee of the Action Committee against Narcotics.

She is Miss Ma Hak-mei, from the Jockey Club Government Secondary Technical School.

Miss Bettina Eichbauer (12), a Form II pupil in the German/Swiss International School, took the first prize in the Junior Section.

An adjudicating panel consisting of Mr. G.S. Blundell of the Government Information Services, Mr. Pang Tsin-mo of the Education Department, Mr. Ho Kin-cheung of the Wah Kiu Yat Po and Mr. John Chan, Art Director, HK-TVB, examined a total of 358 entries yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at the Secretariat for Home Affairs conference Room.

In the Junior Section, the adjudicators decided to name two second prize winners -- Miss Cheung Lai-mui (14) of the Jockey Club Government Secondary Technical School, and Wong Siu-cheong (16) of the Kwun Tong Government Secondary Technical School.

Ma Wai-hang (17) of the Clementi Middle School and Miss Chan Fung-yee (17) of the Wong Fu Nam College won the second and third prizes respectively in the Senior Section.

/For both

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For both sections, winners would receive \$500 for coming first, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third.

Another eight outstanding entries were named and these would each be given a consolation prize of \$50.

Two entries from pupils of the Kwun Tong Vocational Training Centre were also commended by the adjudicators.

Designs entered for the competition were required to depict the beautiful aspects of life in contrast to the miseries of drug addiction.

"The aim of this Competition," a spokesman of ACAN said, "is to involve secondary school pupils in the campaign against drug abuse through design work."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the photographic reproductions of the winning entries for the two first prizes will be distributed in your press box at G.I.S.

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DISPUTE IN SHIPYARD SETTLED

Some 1,200 workers of American Marine Ltd. at Hang Hau will receive a wage increase with retrospective effect from December 10, 1972.

With the help of the Labour Department, an agreement was reached on December 20 between representatives of the workers and the management to end the dispute which arose over demands for wage increases.

Under this agreement, wage increases ranging from \$3.20 to \$4.00 a day will be made to job helpers, trainees, charge hands and semi-skilled and skilled workers.

A longer tea-break for women and young persons has also been agreed upon.

Officers of the Labour Relations Service visited the parties concerned on December 8 and subsequently conducted six conciliation meetings at the shipyard.

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NOTICES TO EXPORTERS

Note to Editors: The Director of Commerce and Industry has issued several notices to exporters on export of cotton textiles to the European Economic Community, and on exports of restrained textiles to the United States.

Copies of these notices are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press box this evening.

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EARTH EMBANKMENT FOR HIGH ISLAND SCHEME

As the next major step in the construction of Hong Kong's latest and largest reservoir - the High Island Water Scheme, an earth embankment will soon be formed across the middle of the future reservoir site to join the Sai Kung Peninsula and High Island itself.

Across this causeway will pass a road which will give access to the southern ends of the two dams during the initial part of the construction period.

Whilst formation of the causeway will not actually enclose the reservoir area it will divide the eastern half from the western and prevent the passage of all vessels and small craft through the existing channel. This is likely to happen a day or two after Christmas.

Construction of the reservoir has received considerable publicity since the High Island Water Scheme was announced as going ahead on May 1, 1971, and the closure of the channel between mainland and island has always been accepted as one of the inevitable disadvantages of the scheme.

Although not passable at all states of the tide the channel, known locally as Kwun Mun, has often provided a more sheltered alternative to the route around the south of High Island for fishing junks and other small craft.

At the time of closure Government vessels will be in position at the eastern and western entrances to the channel to warn approaching boats that passage through the channel is no longer possible and any boat not familiar with the alternative route will be advised how to proceed.

Before closure of the channel, assistance will also be given to any craft wishing to move from the eastern half of the reservoir, which adjoins the open sea, to the western half, which adjoins Inner Port Shelter.

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Release Time: 5.30 p.m.