



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 20, 1973

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OIL COMPANIES ASKED TO CONSERVE OIL STOCKS

The government has asked oil companies to implement specific measures to help conserve Hong Kong's oil stocks.

In a letter to the six oil companies, the Deputy Colonial Secretary and Chairman of the Oil Policy Committee, Mr. M.D.A Clinton, said it seems probable that there will be a reduction in the amount of oil delivered to Hong Kong during the coming months.

Among the measures to be adopted at this stage, is the maintenance of adequate bunker stocks so that essential supplies are available for ships calling at Hong Kong .

To allow for this, Mr. Clinton has asked that the amount of bunker oil for ships should now be determined by the future supply situation. If replacements are not forthcoming, deliveries should be reduced to enable the ship only to reach the next bunkering port.

At the same time, the oil companies have been asked to refrain, where possible, from providing higher grades of bunker oil than is necessary for any ship.

In a second measure to reduce the consumption of oil products, Mr. Clinton has requested the companies to limit strictly the amount of aviation fuel provided to aircraft. This should be limited to the amount normally required to cover the route over which the aircraft is flying, but with regard to the availability of fuel at the next landing point.

Mr. Clinton stressed, however, that in no case would supplies be so restricted as to endanger the safety of the aircraft.

He emphasised that although stocks are at present normal, further measures may be needed to conserve supplies during the coming weeks.

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PRELIMINARY HEARING ON OIL SPILLAGE

The Commission appointed to enquire into the oil spillage from the Shell Oil Company's installation at Aplichau will hold a preliminary hearing at the Legislative Council Chamber next Tuesday (November 27) to enable persons interested, and who wish to appear at the enquiry, to indicate their interest.

The hearing proper will commence on December 4 at the Legislative Council Chamber.

Persons who may be interested may contact Counsel for the Commission, Mr. A .J. Corrigan, Senior Crown Counsel, at the Legal Department.

The Commission's terms of reference are:

- * To enquire into the circumstances in which a storage tank at the Shell Oil Installation at Aplichau fractured during the night of the 8th/9th November, 1973.
- * To ascertain how oil escaped from that tank into the sea in spite of the various safety devices provided, and
- * To make recommendations to the Governor for the prevention of similar accidents in future.

It is pointed out that, accordingly, the question of pollution caused by the oil, any damage resulting therefrom, and the steps taken to remove the spilled oil are outside the terms of reference of the Commission.

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OCTOBER G.C.P.I. SHOWS FOUR-POINT DECREASE

27 Per Cent Drop In Average Retail Price Of Fresh Vegetables

The General Consumer Price Index for October 1973 was 177 - four points (or 2.2 per cent) lower than that for the previous month. This was due mainly to a drop of 10 points in the index for foodstuffs.

On the other hand, the index for durable goods advanced by five points, and that for services by four points.

Increases of one point each were also recorded in the index for fuel and light and the index for clothing and footwear. Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Compared with September, a substantial drop of 27 per cent was recorded in the average retail price of fresh vegetables as a result of considerable improvement in local supplies as well as imports.

Decreases were also recorded in the average retail prices of beef and poultry. However, there were increases in the average retail prices of rice, salt water fish and fresh water fish.

As to non-food items, the index for "Education, including the purchase of text books" also rose as a result of an increase in private school fees and in prices of text books, based on a regular annual survey conducted recently.

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SHENG KUNG HUI LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE OPENED

Lady MacLehose today officially opened the Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre in North Kwai Chung -- the first institution in Hong Kong to be named after her.

The Centre, of which Lady MacLehose is Honorary Patron, aims at serving youths living in nearby housing estates and young industrial workers in the area. It began services in June this year and has a present membership of 1,400.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Lady MacLehose noted that the Centre was the first of its kind in Kwai Chung and she was confident that it would "stand out amongst others that are planned for the area."

Kwai Chung, she said, was expanding in every way and by 1976 the population would be around half a million.

"In an industrial community such as this, it is important to have centres to which people can go for recreational purposes. It is also true that we need schools, hospitals and a good communication system," she stressed.

Referring to the many services, including community and youth work, provided by the Sheng Kung Hui in the diocese of Hong Kong and Macau, Lady MacLehose said: "This Centre will be for ever more a reminder of the determination and enthusiasm of the church's will to help in this particular field."

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She said she realised that the completion of the building had meant a great deal of work for many people who had seen the need to provide a meeting place where friends and neighbours could get together.

"What we see today is the happy result of this work. Tomorrow we shall see it contributing to the life of the community of Kwai Chung," she added.

After the opening ceremony Lady MacLehose was shown round the building by the Rev. Lawrence Cheung, Director of the Centre.

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Lady MacLehose's speech are boxed for collection together with a picture of the opening ceremony.

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TRAFFIC RE-ARRANGEMENT

On Tin Street south of Ping Tin Street in Kowloon will be routed one-way in a clockwise direction as from 10 a.m. on Friday (November 23), a Transport Department spokesman announced today.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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VISIT TO LEPROSY MISSION BY LADY MACLEHOSE

Lady MacLehose, President of the Community Chest of Hong Kong, will be visiting the Leprosy Mission on Hay Ling Chau on Thursday (November 22) to see at first hand the work being carried out there.

The main object of the Leprosy Mission, one of the Chest's member agencies, is to minister to the physical and mental needs of sufferers from leprosy, to assist in their rehabilitation and to work towards the eradication of leprosy.

On arrival, Lady MacLehose will be met by Mr. A.D. Waudby, Secretary of the Mission; Mr. Ho Sau-wing, Administrative Superintendent; and Dr. Cheung Kwan-seng, Medical Officer-in-charge.

She will tour the buildings at Kwo Lo Wan - the area adjacent to the pier - and inspect the patients at work. She will then call at the medical centre, the physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments, the church and recreational centre and the handicraft workshop.

Lady MacLehose will be accompanied on the visit by Miss Susan Hume, Social Secretary of Government House; Dr. S.H. Lee, Assistant Director of Medical and Health Services; and Mr. Colin Morrison, Executive Director of the Chest.

Note to Editors: You are invited to send reporters and photographers to cover the visit. However, photographers are requested to avoid taking full view pictures of the patients.

Transport will be provided. A launch, "Ling Hong No.2", will be waiting at Queen's Pier at 9 a.m. on Thursday to take Press representatives to Hay Ling Chau. On arrival, vans from the Leprosy Mission will take the Press to the main valley. At about 11.15 a.m., the "Ling Hong No. 2" will take reporters to Peng Chau, where they can board passenger ferries back to Hong Kong.

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DAY OF FUN FOR SAU MAU PING RESIDENTS

The Social Welfare Department's two Community Work Offices in Sau Mau Ping Estate, Kowloon, have arranged a day of fun for the young and old on Sunday (November 25) in conjunction with various voluntary welfare agencies and groups in the area.

The first function, planned by the Community Work Office in Sau Mau Ping South is a morning outing for 100 elderly people over the age of 60.

They will be taken on a visit to Kowloon Park to see the creative structural design exhibition, Young People's World, organised as part of the Festival of Hong Kong.

A team of 30 youth volunteers and nurses will escort the group on the tour, which has been arranged as part of the promotional activities for the welfare of the elderly.

In the afternoon, the Community Work Office in Sau Mau Ping Central will be holding a fun fair for 1,000 children. This will be at the Estate Welfare Building from 2 to 5 p.m.

Money raised at the fair will be used to provide entertainment for elderly people in the area.

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LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

The dispute involving the management and nine workers of the Arvin (HK) Ltd. has been settled.

The dispute arose over the stoppage of work by 350 workers on November 11. The nine workers were dismissed for alleged misconduct within the factory.

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department stepped in soon after the dispute broke out. Two conciliation meetings were subsequently held in the San Po Kong office of the Service where the parties to the dispute finally reached agreement.

Under the agreement, the dismissed workers today each received one month wages in lieu of notice and a pro-rata year-end bonus. The total amount involved is in the region of \$6,000.

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EXPORT OF COTTON YARNS AND FABRICS TO THE UNITED STATES

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. D.H. Jordan, today announced the implementation of an export authorization scheme for exports to the United States of cotton yarns and fabrics outside the normal quota control arrangements.

Mr. Jordan said: "The American Government has offered Hong Kong and other countries with which the United States has bilateral cotton textile agreements, import into the United States outside quota of cotton yarns and fabrics of an amount equal to five per cent of the aggregate level of the US/Hong Kong cotton textile agreement. This amounts to about 26 million square yards.

"Export under this offer can be in any or more categories in the cotton yarn and fabric group," he said.

Full details of the export authorization scheme are set out in a Notice to Exporters: Series 2 (U.S.A.) No. 30/73 which was issued today.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters: Series 2 will receive copies of the relevant Notice shortly.

Anyone wishing to seek further information is invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:-

Miss C.M.Y. Chung - Assistant Trade Officer

Tel. No. 5-257791

Mr. Y.K. Tong - Industry Assistant

Tel. No. 5-239625

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INDUSTRIALISTS WARNED AGAINST COMPLACENCY

Mr. T.K. Ann, Chairman of the newly set up Hong Kong Training Council, today urged industrialists to continue striving for improvements instead of being content with past achievements.

Speaking at the Council's first meeting, held this afternoon in the Urban Council Chamber, Mr. Ann said that while Hong Kong had succeeded in the first phase of its "industrial evolution" with an almost total absence of planning in industrial training and education, there was no room for complacency.

He pointed out that labour costs in Hong Kong were no longer low and the only way for Hong Kong's industries to remain competitive was to become more and more sophisticated.

This called for products of better quality and higher productivity which demanded in turn better trained technicians and craftsmen to plan and produce them, he said.

Industrialists could only plan for the future with confidence and invest in their business when they were reasonably sure that technical manpower of a quality able to meet new demands was readily available, Mr. Ann said.

"Moreover, when this happens, foreign investments in the way of high technology which we desperately want to attract at the present stage of our development will be forthcoming," he added.

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He saw the task of the Training Council as helping to ensure that Hong Kong would continue to have "a healthy and competitive industry, a virile commerce and efficient services, capable of surviving in an increasingly complex and sophisticated situation."

He emphasised: "To achieve our objective, we must have comprehensive manpower planning which relates the manpower requirements of these sectors of the economy, now and in the future, to the throughputs of our educational system from secondary through to tertiary."

He hoped that by having senior government representatives on the Executive Committee of the Council, its recommendations would be processed without undue and unreasonable delay.

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Note to Editors: The full text of Mr. Ann's speech is boxed for collection.

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 P.M.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

The Prime Minister is to pay an official visit to China, from 4th to 12th January, 1974, at the invitation of the People's Republic of China.

He will come to Hong Kong after leaving China; the details of his visit here will be announced later.

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.