



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1975.

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TIGHTER CONTROL OVER GUARDING OF
DANGEROUS MACHINERY

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SPECIAL REGULATIONS WHICH WILL TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER THE GUARDING OF DANGEROUS MACHINERY ARE BEING DRAFTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF FACTORY ACCIDENTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE SAID TODAY.

IN A LUNCHEON SPEECH TO THE HONG KONG COTTON SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION, MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 85 OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS A DAY IN 1973 AND 1974, MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF WHICH WERE CAUSED BY MACHINERY.

EVEN MINOR ACCIDENTS WERE COSTLY, MR. PRICE SAID, AND IN 1974 THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY HAD PAID OUT AT LEAST TWO AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

+THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL COST OF ACCIDENTS IF ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALSO LOSS OF PRODUCTION, INTERRUPTION OF WORK FLOW, POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO RAW MATERIALS AND MACHINERY AND THE NEED TO TRAIN REPLACEMENT STAFF,+ HE WENT ON.

UNDER EXISTING REGULATION 23 OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE, PROPRIETORS OF REGISTRABLE WORKPLACES MUST FENCE +ALL DANGEROUS PARTS OF THE MACHINERY.+

THE NEW REGULATION WOULD DESCRIBE IN DETAIL DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY AND SHOULD PROVE TO BE MUCH MORE HELPFUL TO INDUSTRIALISTS THAN THE PRESENT BROAD AND GENERALISED DESCRIPTION.

+BY IDENTIFYING, IN THE REGULATIONS, THOSE PARTS OF MACHINERY WHICH MUST BE GUARDED, I CONSIDER THAT MUCH BETTER PROGRESS SHOULD BE MADE IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF MACHINERY ACCIDENTS.+

HE SAID A SIMILAR APPROACH WOULD BE ADOPTED IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GUARDS. +I INTEND TO SPECIFY SOME FIVE DIFFERENT METHODS OF GUARDING MACHINERY, BUT WILL LEAVE TO THE INDIVIDUAL PROPRIETOR THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHICH METHOD, OR COMBINATION OF METHODS, HE SHOULD ADOPT.+

TOUCHING ON THE STANDARDS OF PROTECTION ON IMPORTED MACHINERY, THE COMMISSIONER SAID : +I CANNOT IMPOSE SAFETY STANDARDS ON THOSE WHO MAKE MACHINERY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. YOU, HOWEVER, AS USERS OF THE MACHINERY IN HONG KONG WILL BE SUBJECT TO THIS NEW LEGISLATION.+

+MAY I THEREFORE ASK YOU, WHEN ORDERING NEW MACHINERY FROM ABROAD, TO EXERCISE PARTICULAR CARE IN INSISTING ON THE PROVISION BY THE MANUFACTURER OF PROPER GUARDS ? YOUR INFLUENCE AND POWER, AS THE PAYING CUSTOMER IN AN INTENSELY COMPETITIVE MARKET, CAN ACHIEVE MUCH IN THIS RESPECT, + HE ADDED.

MR. PRICE WENT ON TO SAY THAT DRAFTING OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WAS NOW FAIRLY FAR ADVANCED AND THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HAD ALREADY AGREED TO THEIR PRINCIPLES.

/+BUT

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+BUT I MUST NOW CONSULT THE MAJOR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGISLATION IS CLEAR, EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME. I STRESS THIS STEP OF CONSULTATION BECAUSE WHILE IT IS OF GREAT VALUE, IT DOES TAKE TIME.+

WHEN MAKING THESE NEW REGULATIONS, MR. PRICE SAID HE WOULD DISTRIBUTE FREE OF CHARGE A PAMPHLET SHOWING SIMPLE DIAGRAMS OF DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS METHODS OF GUARDING MACHINERY -- PARTICULARLY THOSE IN COMMON USE IN HONG KONG'S FACTORIES.

+I AM ALSO EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN EXHIBITION ON MACHINE GUARDING DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1976,+ HE SAID.

MR. PRICE URGED EMPLOYERS TO EXAMINE CRITICALLY THE GUARDING OF EVERY MACHINE IN THEIR FACTORIES, AND TO MAKE AN EARLY START IN PROVIDING ADEQUATE GUARDS WHEREVER DEFICIENCIES ARE REVEALED.

+IF YOU NEED THE ADVICE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE IT IS READILY AND FREELY AVAILABLE. AS I HAVE SAID ELSEWHERE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICES. PLEASE ASK NOW FOR ASSISTANCE, AND DO NOT SIT BACK AND WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE CAUGHT DEFYING THE MORE PRECISE STANDARDS TO BE SET BY THE NEW REGULATIONS.+

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THREE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUES IN 1976

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE THREE ISSUES OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS IN 1976.

TWO STAMPS, IN DENOMINATIONS OF 20 CENTS AND \$1.30 WILL BE ISSUED TO COMMEMORATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH IS THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE, THREE STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED. THEY ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 20 CENTS, \$1.30 AND \$2.

TWO STAMPS, IN DENOMINATIONS OF 20 CENTS AND \$1.30, WILL BE ISSUED TO COMMEMORATE THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES DIAMOND JUBILEE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID: +THE ISSUE DATES FOR THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE FOR EACH EVENT.+

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SEMINARS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS OPEN

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TODAY OFFICIALLY OPENED THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF.

THE SEMINARS, TO BE HELD OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, ARE LED BY PROFESSOR LEONARD MINKES AND DR. DEREK WILLIAMS OF BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY. MR. EDWARD MCCRENSKY, UN REGIONAL ADVISER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IS ALSO TAKING PART.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF SIR DENYS' SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINARS THIS MORNING :-

+I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO OPEN THE FIRST OF THIS SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF, WHO SELDOM HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING PART TOGETHER IN STUDY GROUPS OF THIS NATURE.

+INEVITABLY, AS THE SERVICES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD AND SPECIALISED, AND AS OUR ECONOMY DEVELOPS AND ADAPTS, THE DEMANDS UPON THE RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION OF THE GOVERNMENT MULTIPLY.

+EQUALLY INEVITABLY, THE SIZE OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE GROWS. WITH GROWTH, ANY ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINE UNLESS IT IS UNUSUALLY ALERT AND SENSITIVE, BECOMES CAUTIOUS AND MORE PONDEROUS. DECISIONS ARE REACHED WITH INCREASING SLOWNESS AND DIFFICULTY. SOMETIMES THIS IS BECAUSE MIDDLE AND UPPER MANAGEMENT LEVELS DO NOT EXPAND, IN NUMBERS OR QUALITY, AS FAST AS THE LOWER RANKS. SOMETIMES IT OCCURS BECAUSE MANAGEMENT IS RELUCTANT TO DELEGATE. OFTEN BECAUSE THOSE BELOW ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE DECISIONS WHICH IN THE PAST, IN A SMALLER ORGANISATION, WERE TAKEN AT A HIGHER LEVEL.

+THESE DEVELOPMENTS EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES. THIS DEMANDS A WILLINGNESS TO ADAPT AND REORGANISE, BETTER STANDARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND MORE EFFECTIVE TRAINING.

+THIS SERIES OF SEMINARS IS LARGELY THE OUTCOME OF VISITS BY MR. MCCRENSKY, THE UN REGIONAL ADVISER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE IN RECEIVING FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, TO WHICH WE ARE INDEED GRATEFUL. PROFESSOR LEONARD MINKES AND DR. DEREK WILLIAMS FROM BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY HAVE COME TO HONG KONG TO SHARE WITH YOU THEIR KNOWLEDGE, AND WEALTH OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT IN THE UK AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

/+THE SUCCESS

+THE SUCCESS OF A SEMINAR LIKE THIS DEPENDS LARGELY UPON HOW MUCH THE PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES PUT INTO IT. THIS IS NOT A FORM OF PASSIVE EDUCATION, DURING WHICH YOU WILL MERELY LISTEN AND LEARN FROM OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, THOUGH YOU WILL DO THIS FOR SOME OF THE TIME. THE REAL VALUE OF A SEMINAR COMES FROM THE CLASH OF MINDS, THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE, AND THE ABSORPTION OF OTHER MEN'S THOUGHTS.

+SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE WONDERED WHETHER I WOULD ASK, IN THE DOG IN THE MANGER MANNER WHICH IS EXPECTED OF ME, HOW ON EARTH YOU ARE ABLE TO SPARE SO MUCH TIME FROM YOUR ORDINARY DUTIES. YOU WILL BE RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR PRESENCE HERE DOES YOU CREDIT.

+FIRSTLY, YOUR PRESENCE SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE A SOUND SENSE OF PRIORITIES, SINCE YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT, HOWEVER SENIOR AND EXPERIENCED YOU MAY BE, YOU REMAIN A LEARNER AND THAT YOU BADLY NEED THE STIMULATION OF OTHER ABLE MINDS.

+SECONDLY, IT SUGGESTS THAT YOU HAVE SO ARRANGED THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE THAT YOU CAN BE ABSENT FROM IT FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS WITHOUT CONCERN. ANYONE WHO TRIES TO ORGANISE HIS DEPARTMENT SO AS TO MAKE HIMSELF INDISPENSABLE IS DOING IT AND HIMSELF A GRAVE DISSERVICE. THE BEST LEADERS ENSURE THAT THEIR ORGANISATIONS WORK AS EFFECTIVELY WHEN THEY ARE ABSENT AS WHEN THEY ARE THERE.

+I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THIS SEMINAR, AND THE OTHERS WHICH ARE TO FOLLOW IT, ATTRACTED MANY MORE APPLICATIONS THAN THERE WERE PLACES AVAILABLE. THIS PROVES THAT THERE IS, AMONG THE DIRECTORATE, A REAL INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS OF MANAGEMENT AND A GENUINE INTEREST IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MACHINE, AND IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN SERVING OUR PUBLIC.

+I WISH YOU ALL A PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE SEMINAR.+

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RESERVOIRS 94 PER CENT FULL
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A TOTAL OF 63,037 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER WERE IN STORE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 A.M. THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 93.7 PER CENT OF THE FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS.

ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR THE TOTAL STORAGE WAS ONLY 56,116 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST RESERVOIR, HELD 48,895 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 96.8 PER CENT OF ITS FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, IT HELD 40,219 MILLION GALLONS.

TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 2,979.4 MM (117.3 IN). THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL THIS YEAR IS 2,147.5 MM (84.55 IN).

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ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN TSUEN WAN
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 10) IN TSUEN WAN TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF THE TSUEN WAN CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER (TSUEN WAN), IS AIMED AT PROMOTING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. JIMMY HAYES, AND MR. DEACON CHIU, J.P., WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS AFTER THE CONFERENCE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10:30 A.M. AT THE JU CHING CHU ENGLISH COLLEGE, FAR EAST BANK BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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WATER STOPPAGE
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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE WITHOUT WATER ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 11) FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO ALLOW A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PLOVER COVE ROAD, TUNG CHEUNG STREET AND KWONG FUK ROAD.

IN EAST KOWLOON, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY UNTIL 10 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATERWORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREAS AFFECTED ARE FUNG WONG ESTATE, WONG TAI SIN, WANG TAU HOM, LOK FU, KOWLOON TONG, TUNG TAU TSUEN, KOWLOON CITY, TO KWA WAN, HUNG HOM AND TSZ WAN SHAN.

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CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN KWUN TONG ROAD

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWUN TONG THIS WEEK TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 10), 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWUN TONG ROAD FROM NGAU TAU KOK ROAD TO TSUI PING ROAD AND ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWUN TONG ROAD FROM KING YIP LANE TO LAI YIP STREET.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING ON THE ROAD TO PICK UP AND SET DOWN PASSENGERS OR TO LOAD OR UNLOAD GOODS.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTIONS.

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