



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, June 12, 1973

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NGAU TAU KOK CLEARANCE BEGINS

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The initial phase of the current operation at Ngau Tau Kok was carried out smoothly today.

About 20 factories, five shops and 40 squatter huts were demolished.

Early this morning, staff of the Housing Department and the police helped a family of six to move to the Yan Oi transit centre for temporary accommodation when their hut was demolished.

They will be given public housing.

About 200 labourers from the Housing Department and another 50 workers employed by contractors were involved in today's clearance. Three bulldozers were used.

A spokesman for the department said the operation would continue until the whole site has been cleared.

Many factory operators in the next area to be tackled were today removing machinery from their factory premises.

About 120 factories, 20 shops and 60 domestic structures will have to be cleared in the next few days.

The area cleared will form part of the site for the maintenance depot and the administrative buildings for the mass transit railway.

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Note to Editors: Copies of photographs of the clearance are boxed tonight.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT REPORT IN AUGUST

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The reconstituted Board of Education intends to submit its report to the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, by August this year and it will be published as a "Green Paper" for public discussion and comment.

The board, appointed in January this year, has been charged with advising the Governor on all educational matters.

A spokesman for the Education Department said today that in particular it has been given the task of taking a new look at the educational and examination system that will be appropriate to the conditions of expanded secondary education envisaged by the government. It will also advise on the speed with which this can be implemented.

The board has publicly asked for comments and suggestions from all interested parties to help members in their deliberations and so far 37 written representations have been received, the spokesman added.

Among other matters, the Board of Education will be advising on the best way of achieving, within the shortest time practicable, the objectives of providing three years of secondary education for all in the 12-14 year age group, and of doubling places for the full five-year course.

The spokesman said: "In making recommendations, the board will obviously be concerned both with quality and quantity and will have to take into account the availability of staff and buildings as well as other factors."

It has also been asked to advise on the degree of bi-sessionalism it considers appropriate in the short and long term in secondary schools.

/The spokesman .....

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The spokesman recalled that in his speech at the opening session of the Legislative Council last October, the Governor said that the government planned "free primary education for all, followed by secondary education for all to the age of 14; the latter to include an expanded pre-vocational or technical stream.

"At that point," he added, "there will be on the one hand greatly expanded facilities for further secondary education leading to the Certificate of Education; on the other, young people will be able to choose between going into industry, or acquiring a qualification in a technical institute."

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NEW IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

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Hong Kong residents intending to marry Thai women or who are already married under Thai law are now required to obtain a visa for their brides before entering Hong Kong.

In the past they could enter Hong Kong with a visa waiver and then apply for permanent stay.

However a spokesman for the Immigration Department said today this facility had been abused by some Thai women.

A number of cases had been detected recently by the immigration authorities and the police where some Thai women had been involved in immoral practices. In each case the woman involved had been sent back to Thailand.

The spokesman said that the only sure way of curbing this practice was to stop them from coming to Hong Kong in the first place. The new procedure facilitates the screening of applicants before they arrive.

Applications for the entry visa can be obtained through the British Embassy in Bangkok and will be referred to the Hong Kong immigration office for action.

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COLONIAL SECRETARY DESIGNATE MEETS ANTHONY ROYLE

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The Attorney General, Mr. Denys Roberts, who is at present in London, yesterday called on the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Mr. Anthony Royle at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

It was the first time Mr. Roberts had seen the Under Secretary since the announcement of his new appointment as Colonial Secretary designate.

Mr. Roberts left Hong Kong early last month on vacation leave and is due to return early in July.

On the first part of his leave, the Attorney General paid a short visit to New York where he observed the complex workings of a major American city.

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NEW STAMPS POPULAR

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Hong Kong's new definitive set of stamps, the first since 1962, was in great demand today, the first day of sale.

On Hong Kong Island crowds of people began lining up inside the General Post Office early in the morning and business was brisk throughout the day.

A colourful folder to hold the full set of 14 stamps was specially designed for the occasion and is being sold at \$45 together with the stamps.

It shows pictures of traditional scenes of Hong Kong - the city by night, a dragon boat race and a temple - and contains information on the design of the new set.

The stamps, with a different colour scheme for each of the denominations, have two main design features - a plaster cast of the head of the Queen by Arnold Machin and a panel of flowers freely adapted from an antique Chinese carved brown lacquer tray.

All the stamps, from 10 cents to \$20 are available at post office selling counters. The 10 cent and 50 cent denominations are obtainable from automatic stamp-selling machines.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the crowds in the GPO are boxed tonight.

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YAU TONG OLD PEOPLE'S HOME OPENED

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A hostel run by the Salvation Army has been opened at Yau Tong to take in old people needing care and shelter.

Called the Yau Tong Old People's Home, the hostel has accommodation for some 65 single men or women who are eligible for compassionate resettlement.

Admission is through the Social Welfare Department and the first residents are expected to move in soon.

The Housing Department allocated nine public housing units at Block 25 of the Yau Tong Estate so that the hostel could be established. The Salvation Army is charged only a token rent for the units.

The residents do not have to pay any fee or rent although they have to pay for the meals supplied.

The cost of the project -- over \$200,000 -- including fitting-out work and the installation of furniture and equipment, has been met by a grant from the Lotteries Fund.

The recurrent cost will be drawn from general revenue.

Apart from the new hostel at Yau Tong, the Salvation Army runs similar homes at Tai Hang Tung and Kam Tin catering for a total of 67 residents.

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GUIDE ON SAFE WORKING PRACTICES IN SHIPBUILDING

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Note to Editors: The Marine Department has produced a guide setting out safe working practices in the ship building and ship-repairing industries.

To introduce the guide, a press conference, to be chaired by Mr. R. Blacklock, Surveyor-General of Ships, will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday (June 14) in the G.I.S. theatre, 5th floor, Beaconsfield House.

Mr. Blacklock, who is chairman of the Working Party which compiled the guide, will take the opportunity to speak generally on the government's policy and measures being taken towards promoting safe working conditions on board ships.

Also present will be Mr. B.S. Makhija, Surveyor of Ships; Mr. Li Kok-choi, Divisional Officer of the Fire Services Department; and Mr. Chan Tak-king, Acting Divisional Factory Inspector of the Labour Department.

Mr. Makhija, who edited the guide, will answer any question arising from its technical content.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the conference.

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OVERNIGHT CAMPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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The Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department has arranged a series of five overnight camping trips for young people from now until August.

The trips which will last two to three days each will be to various locations in the New Territories and outlying islands.

Mr. Antonio Chu, officer-in-charge of the Youth Work Unit, says the aim is to encourage young people to organise such activities for themselves and to develop their basic understanding of the outdoors.

The camps are expected to cater for about 40 young people each. They will be run by the unit's self-programming group, "The Eternity" which is made up of volunteers and former members who have participated in previous camps.

The camps are intended for young people from 17 to 25 and anyone interested in joining can obtain the application forms and details from the office of the Youth Work Unit in Room 908, Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, Hong Kong (telephone 5-712467), or the Kowloon office on the top floor of Nathan Road Government Offices (telephone 3-884111 ext. 334).

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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The Governor, after taking into consideration the advice of the Executive Council, has decided that the death sentence passed on April 7, 1972 on Chan Kam-wah should be commuted to a term of 12 years imprisonment.

Chan was found guilty of the murder of Lam Ah-kau.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.