



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1977

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CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE HILL FIRES

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY LAUNCHED A COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT REDUCING THE HIGH LOSS OF FOREST RESERVES OVER THE COMING DRY SEASON.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR. MARTIN LEWIS, DISCLOSED THAT THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE GRAVE VISITORS, PICNICKERS AND VILLAGERS.

HE SAID THAT THE 1,212 HILL FIRES RECORDED DURING THE LAST DRY SEASON DESTROYED MORE THAN 922,000 TREES OVER AN AREA OF 1,188 HECTARES (ABOUT 3,000 ACRES).

+ALMOST HALF OF THESE FIRES OCCURRED DURING WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND MORE THAN 80 FIRES BROKE OUT DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG AND CHING MING FESTIVALS,+ MR. LEWIS POINTED OUT.

+CLEARLY WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET THIS SITUATION CONTINUE,+ HE WARNED.

HE CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO CO-OPERATE IN HELPING PREVENT FIRE OUTBREAKS IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS THE COUNTRYSIDE PROVIDES.

IN VIEW OF THE COMING CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, WHICH MAY PROVE TO BE A PARTICULARLY BAD DAY FOR HILL FIRES, SPECIAL PUBLICITY MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED TO WARN GRAVE VISITORS AGAINST THE DANGER. THESE WILL INCLUDE BROADCASTS BEAMED FROM AN AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE FLYING OVER THE VARIOUS GRAVE SITES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

PICNICKERS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO FIRE STATISTICS AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THEIR PATROLS ON THE GROUND SO AS TO CHECK THAT PICNICKERS ABIDE BY THE LAWS AGAINST LIGHTING FIRES IN 'HIGH RISK' AREAS.

MR. LEWIS INDICATED THAT HIS STAFF WILL SHORTLY BE EMPOWERED TO SERVE NOTICES ON PEOPLE WHO LIGHT FIRES IN UNAUTHORISED AREAS WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS.

+UNDER THE COUNTRY PARKS REGULATIONS,+ HE SAID, +A PERSON CAN BE FINED UP TO \$5,000 AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT FOR THIS OFFENCE.+

IN ORDER TO PUT THE CAMPAIGN MESSAGE ACROSS TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE, POSTERS APPEALING TO PICNIC PARTIES TO TAKE EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT FIRE WILL BE PUT UP AT SUITABLE SITES, CONCENTRATED PARTICULARLY AROUND THE MAIN PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES TO THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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THEY WILL BE SUPPORTED BY RADIO BROADCASTS, SHORT TELEVISION FILMS, AND TAPED MESSAGES TO BE BROADCAST ON BOARD OUTLYING FERRIES AND AT THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINAL.

IN ADDITION, SOME 100 FIRE WARNING SIGNBOARDS WILL BE SET UP IN AREAS OF HIGH FIRE RISK.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR. JOHN MARCH= DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER, MR. TAM HON-CHEUNG= CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, CIVIL AID SERVICES, MR. JOHN FORTUNE= AND A.F.D.'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR. C.C. LEE.

THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE FIGHTING IN COUNTRYSIDE AREAS WILL FALL ON THE FIRE SERVICES, BUT THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL ALSO HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY DURING THE COMING DRY SEASON.

DURING DRY WEEKENDS OR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, C.A.S. FIRE CREWS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN COUNTRYSIDE FIRE-FIGHTING AND THEIR CADETS WILL HELP A.F.D. IN PATROL DUTIES.

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HONG KONG JURY LIST  
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THE SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WOULD BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD NEAR THE LIFT INSIDE THE SOUTH-WEST ENTRANCE OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING ON OCTOBER 24.

THE LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS.

DURING THIS PERIOD ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING THAT HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED UPON CAUSE DULY ASSIGNED IN THE NOTICE.

THE REGISTRAR SHALL IN HIS DISCRETION, POST OR REMOVE SUCH NAME ACCORDINGLY AND SHALL, IF NECESSARY, ALTER THE LIST.

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CONTRACT FOR TSUEN WAN AUDITORIUM SIGNED  
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED A \$12.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSUEN WAN AUDITORIUM TO HING LEE CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

THE CONTRACT, WHICH FORMS THE FIRST STAGE OF THE \$23 MILLION PROJECT, INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AUDITORIUM FOR CONCERTS AND DANCE PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITION HALLS AND AN ENTRANCE FOYER WITH BAR FACILITIES.

IT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED THIS MORNING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY MR. K.M. TSENG, CHIEF P.W.D. ARCHITECT, AND MR. WILLIAM SIT OF HING LEE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

SPEAKING AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY, MR. TSENG SAID THAT WORK ON THE PROJECT WOULD BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THAT THE 1,500-SEAT AUDITORIUM WOULD BE SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO THE CONCERT HALL OF THE CITY HALL. BUT MODIFICATIONS WOULD BE MADE TO MAKE IT MORE SUITABLE FOR CONCERTS AND CHINESE DRAMA PERFORMANCES.

MOST OF THE SEATS WOULD BE ON THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE AUDITORIUM AND THE REST ON THE BALCONY.

ON THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF THE CULTURAL COMPLEX THERE WOULD BE AREAS SUITABLE FOR HOLDING EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER FUNCTIONS. A BAR WOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE GROUND FLOOR FOYER.

MR. TSENG SAID: +THE PEOPLE OF TSUEN WAN ARE TAKING AN INCREASING INTEREST IN ARTS, MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA.

+THE AUDITORIUM, WHICH WILL PROVIDE TSUEN WAN WITH MUCH-NEEDED FACILITIES FOR THE INCREASING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS, WILL BE LOCATED IN THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN, NEXT TO THE TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY BUILDING.+

EVENTUALLY, IT WILL BE LINKED VIA A PEDESTRIAN DECK TO THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING ADJACENT TO IT.

AT PRESENT, MR. TSENG ADDED, ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CONCERTS, PLAYS, DANCING PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS, HAD TO BE HELD IN PREMISES LIKE SCHOOL HALLS WHICH HAVE POOR ACOUSTICS, INADEQUATE REHEARSAL ROOMS, AND WHICH CANNOT ACCOMMODATE LARGE AUDIENCES.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS PLEDGED A DONATION OF \$10 MILLION TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COST OF THE PROJECT.

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EXAMS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY IN MERCHANT NAVY  
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT VARIOUS EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY IN THE MERCHANT NAVY WILL BE HELD DURING THE YEAR 1978.

ALL EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE EXAMINATION CENTRE, RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STORY CAR PARK, 10TH FLOOR, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS MASTERS AND FIRST MATES WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, FEBRUARY 20, JUNE 26, AUGUST 14 AND OCTOBER 2= WHILE THOSE FOR SECOND MATES WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 23, APRIL 24, MAY 29, JULY 17, SEPTEMBER 4, OCTOBER 30 AND DECEMBER 11.

APPLICATIONS FOR ANY OF THESE EXAMINATIONS TOGETHER WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS MUST BE MADE IN PERSON ON THE MORNING OF ANY FRIDAY AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF EXAMINATION.

CANDIDATES INTENDING TO SIT FOR TRAWLER MASTER EXAMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE DATES PROVIDED THAT APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS EXTRA MASTER WILL BE HELD BY ARRANGEMENT AND INTENDING CANDIDATES SHOULD APPLY TO THE EXAMINER OF MASTERS AND MATES, GIVING AT LEAST TWO MONTHS NOTICE.

A NUMBER OF EXAMINATIONS FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS MARINE ENGINEERS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND CANDIDATES SHOULD MAKE THEIR APPLICATION IN PERSON AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION THEY WISH TO ATTEND.

THOSE WHO HOLD NATIONAL CERTIFICATES IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OR OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ON WHICH EXEMPTION FROM SOME PART OF THE EXAMINATION MAY BE CLAIMED, AND THOSE FOR FIRST OR SECOND CLASS ENGINEER COMBINED CERTIFICATE, SHOULD MAKE APPLICATION AT LEAST ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION DATE.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO OBTAIN EXTRA FIRST CLASS ENGINEER CERTIFICATES, EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY AND JULY.

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NO MAILS ON CHUNG YEUNG  
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THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21), WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THAT DAY.

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USD'S NT HEADQUARTERS AND ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE  
MOVING TO NEW OFFICES  
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THE OFFICES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL MOVE FROM 2ND AND 3RD FLOORS, WATER WORKS ANNEX, SAI YEE STREET, KOWLOON, TO 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH FLOORS, AUSTIN CENTRE, 19 - 23 AUSTIN AVENUE, KOWLOON, ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 22).

BUSINESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE OFFICES WILL BE HANDLED AT THE NEW PREMISES WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONDAY (OCTOBER 24).

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR COMPLAINTS AND GENERAL INQUIRIES IS 3-678715.

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