



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
-STEERING GROUP FORMED TO EXAMINE PROPOSALS FOR A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG	1
TELEPHONE COMPANY URGED TO REVIEW ITS EXPANSION POLICY	2
STRICT SECURITY AT HIGH ISLAND TO PREVENT PILFERING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ITEMS	3
SMALL VESSELS WARNED NOT TO NAVIGATE TOO NEAR FERRY PIERS	3
FIFTY NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN APRIL	4
SECOND PHASE OF ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN COMPLETED	4
NEW IMMIGRATION OFFICE OPENING IN SHAM SHUI PO	5

STEERING GROUP TO EXAMINE PROPOSED COMMODITY EXCHANGE

* * * * *

A SMALL STEERING GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP TO APPRAISE THE FIVE FEASIBILITY STUDIES SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THOSE GROUPS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG.

MR. DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP.

THE MEMBERS ARE:

SIR SIDNEY GORDON, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MR. WILFRED S.B. WONG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MR. ANN TSE-KAI, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MR. JAMES MCGREGOR, ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND

MR. U.A. MCINNES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, WHO WILL ALSO BE SECRETARY TO THE STEERING GROUP.

THE STEERING GROUP WILL ALSO HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT EXPERT CONSULTANT TO ADVISE IT ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE VARIOUS APPLICATIONS.

HE IS MR. LUCIUS THOMPSON-MCCAUSLAND, A FORMER ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND. HE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG OVER THE WEEKEND FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

THE STEERING GROUP'S FINDINGS WILL EVENTUALLY BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR DECISIONS ON

(A) WHETHER THE COMMODITY EXCHANGES (PROHIBITION) ORDINANCE, 1973 SHOULD BE AMENDED TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG AND, IF SO,

(B) WHICH ONE OF THE FIVE GROUPS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO OPEN SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

COMMENTING ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE STEERING GROUP MR. JONES SAID: +THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELL REGULATED AND PROPERLY RUN COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG COULD BE OF BENEFIT TO OUR ECONOMY AND A FURTHER STEP IN HONG KONG'S EMERGENCE AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+BUT FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IT MUST BE ABLE TO OPERATE FROM THE START ON THE HIGHEST TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND WITH ABSOLUTE INTEGRITY.

+IT WILL BE THE STEERING GROUP'S TASK TO ENSURE THAT ANY RECOMMENDATION TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE AND TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE GROUPS WILL ONLY BE MADE IF THEY ARE SURE THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET IN FULL.

+IF THE STEERING GROUP ARE NOT SO CONVINCED THEY WILL RECOMMEND AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMODITY EXCHANGE IN HONG KONG AT THE PRESENT TIME+.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974.

- 2 -

TEL. CO. URGED TO REVIEW ITS EXPANSION POLICY
* * * * *

THE +CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDE+ OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY IN ITS PLANNING ON PROVIDING TELEPHONE SERVICES TO AREAS ONLY AFTER SUFFICIENT DEMAND HAS RISEN CAME UNDER FIRE TODAY.

IN ITS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1973, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SERVICES SAYS THAT BY THIS METHOD OF PLANNING, +SUPPLY OF TELEPHONE LINES WILL ALWAYS LAG BEHIND THE DEMAND.+

+A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT EXPANSION POLICY OF THE COMPANY SHOULD BE MADE IN THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY,+ MR. WOO PAK-CHUEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, STRESSED IN HIS REPORT.

THE COMMITTEE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE PROVISION OF A PUBLIC TELEPHONE SERVICE SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED UPON IN INDIVIDUAL AREAS IN ISOLATION BUT MUST BE VIEWED FROM ESTABLISHING A SATISFACTORY NETWORK COVERING THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AGAIN TAXED THE COMMITTEE'S TIME AND ATTENTION DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW.

+THE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION OF THE PRESENT TWO VOLUME DIRECTORY IS NOT A SUITABLE OR CONVENIENT METHOD OF PRESENTATION,+ MR. WOO COMMENTED.

HE SUGGESTED THAT A TWO VOLUME DIRECTORY, SPLIT ALPHABETICALLY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITION AND BY CHARACTER STROKE IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE EDITION WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

HOWEVER, THIS SUGGESTION HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMPANY, WHICH MAINTAINED THAT THE PROPOSED METHOD WOULD ARTIFICIALLY INFLATE THE DEMAND FOR TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CUMULATIVE WAITING LIST WHICH STOOD AT 29,956 ON DECEMBER 31, 1973, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE APPLICATIONS FOR NEW LINES.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THE NUMBER OF NEW LINES INSTALLED IN A YEAR FLUCTUATED BETWEEN 71,446 TO 98,995 WHILE THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TOTALLED 85,856 IN 1969 AND ROSE TO 126,264 IN 1973.

REFERRING TO TELEPHONE SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. WOO REPORTED THAT A SURVEY OF DEMAND FOR TELEPHONES IN THE N. T. HAD BEEN COMPLETED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

AS A RESULT, A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THIS SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE TELEPHONE COMMITTEE ON THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN FOR EXTENDING THE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO AREAS BY THE SURVEY.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SERVICES ARE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN THE PRESS BOXES FOR COLLECTION.

----- 0 -----

13

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AT HIGH ISLAND
STRICT SECURITY MEASURES TO PREVENT PILFERING

* * * * *

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, SAI KUNG, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, TODAY (SATURDAY) REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AT THE KOON MUN CHANNEL WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING EXCAVATED AS PART OF THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME.

HE SAID THAT STRICT SECURITY HAS BEEN IMPOSED AROUND THE SITE TO PREVENT FURTHER PILFERING. HE CALLED ON ANYONE WHO HAD TAKEN AWAY SAMPLES TO RETURN THEM IMMEDIATELY.

MR. OXLEY HAD ADVISED CITY MUSEUM CURATOR, MR. JOHN WARNER, OF THE DISCOVERY, AND THAT MR. WARNER AND MR. B. WILLIAMS OF THE HONG KONG ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WERE PLANNING FURTHER EXCAVATION.

MEANWHILE, CITY MUSEUM STAFF YESTERDAY CARRIED OUT PRELIMINARY WORK AND HAVE TAKEN AWAY SAMPLES FOR DATING AND FURTHER SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER SAID IT WAS FAR TOO EARLY TO INDICATE THE DATE OF THE SUNKEN SHIP OR THE GENERAL IMPORTANCE OF THE DISCOVERY.

HE DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT THE SHIP WAS UNLIKELY TO BE OLDER THAN MING DYNASTY.

HE SAID THAT ONCE THE CITY MUSEUM INVESTIGATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IT WAS HOPED TO ISSUE FULL DETAILS OF THE DISCOVERY. HE UNDERSTOOD THE CURATOR WOULD DISPLAY MANY OF THESE OBJECTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERESTS IN THE CITY MUSEUM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WARNING AGAINST NAVIGATING TOO CLOSE TO FERRY PIERS

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TODAY WARNED OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF SMALL VESSELS IN THE HARBOUR TO KEEP WELL AWAY FROM PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR PIERS.

+IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED,+ HE SAID, +THAT THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR ALL TYPES OF VESSELS TO NAVIGATE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE VARIOUS PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR PIERS IN THE HARBOUR.

+THIS PRACTICE IS BOTH IMPRUDENT AND DANGEROUS AND HAS RESULTED IN LOSS OF LIFE.+

THE DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT ALL PERSONS IN CHARGE OF SMALL VESSELS WHETHER POWERED OR UNDER SAIL, ARE REQUIRED TO PASS THESE PIERS AT A DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 300 FEET.

THIS PRECAUTION WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT DURING THE MORNING AND EVENING RUSH HOURS WHEN ADDITIONAL FERRIES USED THE WEST AND EAST ARMS OF THE FERRY PIERS AT TSIM SHEA TSUI AND EDINBURGH PLACE.

+SHIPMASTERS, PILOTS AND COXSWAINS ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE ALL FERRY PIERS, GOVERNMENT PIERS AND PUBLIC PIERS AS WIDE A BERTH AS IS COMMENSURATE WITH OTHER NAVIGATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE PORT,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OCCUPATION PERMITS ISSUED TO THREE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS
* * * * *

THREE NEW SCHOOLS WERE AMONG 49 NEW BUILDINGS FOR WHICH OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED LAST MONTH. THE TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE NEW BUILDINGS AMOUNTED TO \$110 MILLION.

THE THREE SCHOOL PREMISES CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION INCLUDED A SINGLE-STORY BUILDING WITHIN THE POLYTECHNIC AT HUNG HOM, A SEVEN-STORY BUILDING OF THE CHINESE RHEINISH CHURCH HONG KONG SYNDICATE IN KOWLOON TONG, AND A SIX-STORY SCHOOL BUILDING FOR THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION IN KWAI CHUNG.

MEANWHILE, BUILDING PLANS FOR A BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WERE ALSO APPROVED.

ALTOGETHER, 50 NEW BUILDING PLANS SUBMITTED TO THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE WERE APPROVED LAST MONTH. THESE INCLUDED PLANS FOR A HOTEL IN HAPPY VALLEY, A CINEMA IN SAU MAU PING AND A CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION AT KWAI CHUNG.

AT THE SAME TIME, CONSENT WAS GIVEN FOR WORK TO START ON 52 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS AND APPROVAL FOR DEMOLITION OF 26 BUILDINGS WAS GIVEN.

----- 0 -----
ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN
* * * * *

THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS YEAR'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS CAMPAIGN BEGINNING ON MARCH 18 WAS COMPLETED AT THE END OF APRIL, WITH A TOTAL OF 36,286 DOSES OF ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE ADMINISTERED.

DURING THE PERIOD, 7,514 DOSES WERE ADMINISTERED AMONG CHILDREN ON THE ISLAND, 19,838 IN KOWLOON, AND 8,934 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OF THESE, 13,365 WERE FIRST-DOSE, 13,058 SECOND DOSE, AND 9,863 BOOSTER-DOSE.

THE SECOND PHASE WAS INTENDED AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE FIRST PHASE, CARRIED OUT EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY: "ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE IS AVAILABLE FREE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT ALL THE DEPARTMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES.

"THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS ARE INTENDED TO REMIND MOTHERS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS SERVICE, AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT."

HE EXPLAINED THAT CAMPAIGNS "ENABLE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES TO DEAL WITH CASES THAT DO NOT COME UP DURING NORMAL SESSIONS."

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974

- 5 -

NEW IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN SHAM SHUI PO

A NEW IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICE WILL BE OPENED IN SHAM SHUI PO ON MONDAY (MAY 27) PROVIDING CONVENIENT IMMIGRATION FACILITIES TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT E-H, SOUTH OCEAN BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 286-300 CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, AND WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY MR. WONG PING-HON, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION.

IT WILL REPLACE THE FORMER SHAM SHUI PO BRANCH OFFICE WHICH WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE MONG KOK OFFICE IN JULY 1972 AFTER ITS LEASE WAS TERMINATED.

THE NEW BRANCH OFFICE IS THE SIXTH TO BE OPENED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS AND WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF IMMIGRATION BUSINESS.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE OPENING CEREMONY COVERED. IT WILL BE HELD AT 10 A.M. ON MONDAY. THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR. BILL COLLARD, WILL ATTEND AND ADDRESS THE GATHERING. COPIES OF HIS SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. ON THAT DAY.

----- 0 -----