



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 16, 1976

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr. Alan Scott, said today (Friday) that the Air Traffic Control Association had informed the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. R. Downing, that the Association intended within the next seven days to take work-to-rule action in support of its request for improved pay and conditions of service.

While regretting that the Association found it necessary to make this announcement, Mr. Scott said that both he and the Director, had most carefully examined several times the requests and arguments put forward by the Association, and had been unable to agree that a substantial enough case had been made for the improvements requested. There had been regular meetings between the Director and the Association representatives, and on December 19 a very full reply on the various points had been sent to the Association by the Director.

The Association's requests cover several points including: pay, changes in the volume and complexity of work, and the risk of losing their jobs because of annual medical and proficiency examination requirements.

On pay, the Association claims that salaries should be related to aircrew pay.

"No evidence has been put forward that any administration accepts this, and the commercial factors and conditions of work affecting aircrew are not comparable with those of Air Traffic Control staff holding secure civil service appointments," Mr. Scott said.

" There is clear evidence that Hong Kong Air

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Traffic Controllers salaries are better than those of similar staff in the region, including New Zealand; and are comparable with Australia; and this does not take into account tax effects, non-contributory pensions, and subsidised housing," he pointed out.

On changes in workload, the government view is that the 1971 Salaries Commission considered most carefully the position as at that time. The Director, as government's professional adviser in the field, has reexamined with considerable care the whole position, and considers that the 1971 Commission was not out of line in its assessment; and that the position has not significantly altered since 1971.

On medical and proficiency tests, the facts do not support what would otherwise be a valid matter for concern by the Association. Mr. Scott noted that in the last 25 years, only two officers have been invalided out, and both, he said were reemployed on Air Traffic Control duties elsewhere.

"A clear assurance has been given by the Secretary for the Civil Service that any officer in this position would be most sympathetically treated and other employment found, if at all possible, in the civil service. The same would apply to any officer who failed to pass the proficiency tests. No officer has ever been retired on this account."

Mr. Scott went on to say that the Air Traffic Control Officer is trained from the age of 18 or 19 at government expense and his time of training is pensionable service. The salary structure enables the typical Air Traffic Control Officer to reach the main professional maximum (\$6910) at age 32, which is earlier than other professions. These factors recognise adequately the stress and complexity factors in their work.

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"The Government fully understands and accepts the right of staff associations to make representations for improved conditions, but has the duty to ensure that public funds are properly spent, along with its responsibility as an employer to provide fair remuneration and benefits for civil servants. There will be occasions when an association will be dissatisfied, because management feels that it cannot reasonably give concessions."

In this particular case, the Secretary for the Civil Service considers that Air Traffic Controllers are reasonably remunerated although, as the Director has already said to them, there may be aspects of their career structure which can be looked into and which he has invited them to discuss.

Work-to-rule is not a very precise term and it may mean one thing to an employee and another to an employer. In this instance, the regulations for the work of Air Traffic Controllers are clearly laid down by the Director in accordance with international standards. It may therefore be said that working-to-rule is exactly what is expected of Air Traffic Controllers all the time, and that any delays which result from this proposed action indicate that they are not performing their jobs properly and efficiently. If this turns out to be the case, then it will be necessary to consider whether salaries are being fully earned and if not, whether some action should be taken.

The Secretary for the Civil Service regards this as a sad prospect, because the aim is to keep the public services going and to keep civil servants reasonably content. He therefore hopes that the Association will review its stand and rejoin the Director in the Consultative Council before these matters escalate unnecessarily.

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STREET ALTERATIONS DUE TO MTR WORKS IN NATHAN ROAD

Construction of the Mass Transit Railway stations and tunnels in Nathan Road between Salisbury Road and Boundary Street will begin in March this year and will be completed by the end of 1979.

This part of the system includes the construction by cut-and-cover methods of undergrounds stations at Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan Road, Waterloo Road, Argyle Street and of works near Prince Edward Road and Boundary Street.

The running lines between these works will be constructed by bored tunnel methods. The stations include the construction of entrances and ventilation shafts which will appear as permanent ground level structures.

However, before work can start on this section of the Mass Transit Railway, certain street alterations and diversions affecting principally Nathan Road and Shanghai Street, have to be made.

Details of the street alterations and diversions are notified in today's Government Gazette.

The road alterations involve various traffic diversions and re-routings which will be implemented at different dates during a four-month period and which will result in a new traffic routing plan becoming operative to facilitate the construction of the stations in Nathan Road.

Details of this new traffic routing plan, which will come into operation before the Mass Transit Railway construction work starts, will be announced through the mass media.

Traffic diversions will be substantial and all classes of vehicles will be affected.

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In general, southbound traffic only will continue to use Nathan Road and the displaced northbound traffic will therefore have to use alternative streets, Ferry Street/Tong Mi Road on the west and Princess Margaret Road on the east.

Southbound traffic may also use Shanghai Street between Lai Chi Kok Road and Waterloo Road. Certain streets will of necessity have traffic restrictions imposed but every effort will be made to minimise public inconvenience.

The new Prince Edward Road/Lai Chi Kok Road Flyover forming an east-west cross-route will be brought into use before the diversions come into effect.

At a later date the Gascoigne Road/Tong Mi Road Flyover will provide a further east-west cross-route.

Plans showing the areas affected by this section of the Mass Transit Railway may be inspected at the City District Office, Central and Western Enquiries Office, Central Government Offices, West Wing, Hong Kong, and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, 10th floor, Kowloon Government Offices Building, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

The plans are also on display at the City District Office, Kowloon City, 379 Prince Edward Road; the City District Office, Mong Kok, 751 Nathan Road; the City District Office, Sham Shui Po, 299-303 Lai Chi Kok Road; and the City District Office, Yau Ma Tei, 260-264 Temple Street, Kowloon.

Today's Government Gazette stipulates that any person making a claim for compensation must send his claim in writing to the Director of Public Works.

The claims must reach the Office of the Director before the expiration of one year from the date of closure of the street or from the completion of the substantial alteration which is alleged to have caused pecuniary loss or damage.

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PIER AT LANTAU RESORT TO BE EXTENDED

The Government intends to grant a lease of foreshore and seabed of 8.3 acres to the Hong Kong Resort Co. Ltd in connection with the construction of a self-contained leisure and resort complex on Lantau Island.

The area will be used for the extension of the existing pier at Tai Pak, Discovery Bay.

The extension is necessary following the company's decision to make the extended pier the main access to the area.

A notification to this effect was published in today's Gazette for general information.

Any person who has objections to the proposal or any claims of private right should submit such objections or claims or both in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months.

Earlier, the Government had announced its intention to grant a lease of foreshore and seabed of up to about 105 acres at Discovery Bay to the company for the construction of the resort complex.

Facilities at the resort include an international class hotel, about 2,200 resort homes of various sizes, golf courses, a yachting marina, tennis courts, an indoor sports hall and a cable-car link.

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FIRING PRACTICE

Firing practice will take place on the Castle Peak Range between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on January 30 (Friday).

The public are reminded that it is dangerous to enter the area when the red flags are flying during the time of firing practice.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN ABERDEEN

The Public Works Department is to further improve a number of road sections in Aberdeen as part of a major project to provide a fast route between Central District and Aberdeen.

Mr. S.C. Chen, Chief Engineer of PWD's (H.K.) Division, said today traffic movement on the existing road network between the two districts had increased significantly as a result of rapid development in the Aberdeen and Pokfulam areas, and the aim was to provide an alternative direct route between Central and Aberdeen.

The new highway, he said, would ultimately consist of a four-lane carriageway with two lanes of traffic in each direction from Wong Chuk Hang Road to the new Shek Pai Wan Road now being built.

He noted that the Public Works Department had already carried out several schemes of improving traffic conditions on the existing road network serving Central and Aberdeen.

"For example, the existing Wong Chuk Hang Road has been widened to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction and work is progressing to widen Shek Pai Wan Road.

"Several sections of Pokfulam Road have also been widened and the remaining sections will be improved in stages," he said.

Mr. Chen said it was intended to build the intervening road connection between Wong Chuk Hang Road and Shek Pai Wan Road in several phases.

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"The present phase comprises essentially construction of a new road on the existing reclamation between Shek Pai Wan Road west of Tin Wan Hill Road and Aberdeen Main Road near the Wholesale Fish Market."

He added that a foot bridge spanning the new road would also be built to the south of Tin Wan Street to enable pedestrians to cross in safety.

The proposed works will involve alterations to the alignments, widths and levels of short sections of Shek Pai Wan Road, Aberdeen Main Road, Yue Lei Street, Yue Ko Street and the access road leading to the Chinese Permanent Cemetery.

Notice of the proposed undertaking is published in today's Gazette. Any person objecting to the proposal must send his objection in writing to the Director of Public Works to reach his office not later than February 16, 1976.

Copies of the plan showing the proposed alterations may be inspected at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, 19th floor, Hong Kong; the City District Office (Central and Western) Enquiry Branch, Central Government Offices; the Central CDO, 205A Des Voeux Road West, Ground Floor; or the City District Office (Southern), 52-64 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong.

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COMPENSATION PAY-OUT TO SAM SHING HUI BUSINESS OWNERS

Owners of business premises in Sam Shing Hui, New Territories, due to be cleared to make way for a residential and commercial complex and the Tuen Mun/Tsuen Wan Highway, today each received an advance payment of compensation of \$2,000.

About 130 businessmen were involved in the payment administered by Housing Department officials and held in the District Office, Tuen Mun.

The businessmen are now constructing new premises at a nearby resite area built on reclaimed land. Movement to the resite area will begin towards the end of February and be completed by April 30. When the location they are at present vacating is fully redeveloped, the business owners will be given the opportunity to take part in a restricted tender for the commercial sites.

Total compensation varies from \$6,000 to \$20,000 and is calculated on the area each business occupies. The balance will be paid at the time the restricted tender is held.

Others included in the Sam Shing Hui clearance are boatyard operators and people who live on boats. The boatyards operators will move to a resite area designed specially for them for use as slipways, while the boat people will either be provided with space in a new temporary typhoon shelter or other accommodation.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR 'WALK FOR A MILLION'

A number of temporary changes in traffic arrangements will be made in Tsuen Wan on Sunday (January 18) because of the "Walk for a Million" event.

From 7 a.m. until about 2 p.m. the following roads will be closed to vehicular traffic: Kwok Shui Road between Shing Mun Road and Fu Uk Road; Shing Mun Road between Wo Yi Hop Road and Pine Apple Dam (Shing Mun Reservoir); all of Ting Fung Street; all of Ting Kwok Street; all of Fu Uk Road; all of Yau Ma Hom Road; and Cheung Wing Road between Yau Ma Hom Road and Wo Yi Hop Road.

Parking spaces will be temporarily suspended in the closed roads and in the unnamed street opposite the Tsuen Wan police station leading to the Tsuen Wan technical secondary school. Only official and emergency vehicles will be allowed to park in these roads.

Parking spaces in Tai Ha Street will also be suspended and reserved for coaches of the organised groups taking part in the walk.

Bus routes affected from 7 a.m. until about 2 p.m. include KMB route No. 32 which will be suspended temporarily, and route No. 36 which will be diverted along Castle Peak Road instead of Kwok Shui Road on both east and west-bound journeys.

A Transport Department spokesman said that as very large crowds are expected motorists should drive with extreme care.

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NEW SAILING TIMES FOR CENTRAL-HUNG HOM FERRY SERVICE

The Transport Department announced today that the Star Ferry would be introducing new sailing times for its service from Central to Hung Hom from Monday, January 19.

A spokesman for the department said: "The company now has exclusive use of the berth at Hung Hom which it previously shared with the Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company. This will enable the Star Ferry to operate a more regular service between Hung Hom and Edinburgh Place."

Starting from Monday, the new timetable will be:

	<u>From Edinburgh Place</u>	<u>From Hung Hom</u>	
Mondays to Saturdays	7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.	7.00 a.m. to 7.20 p.m.	every 20 min.
Sundays & Public Holidays	7.00 a.m. to 7.20 p.m.	7.00 a.m. to 7.40 p.m.	every 20 min.

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TRAINING YOUTHS TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

The training of young men and women to think for themselves and to make decisions based on their own observations and evaluations should still be the main aim of education, the Director of Education, Mr. Kenneth Topley, said this evening.

"Such young men and women will be assets to any society which cherishes freedom of thought and speech," Mr. Topley told the gathering at the Speech Day of St. Paul's Co-Educational College and the official naming of the school hall in honour of the late Sir Robert Kotewall.

The Director continued: "It cannot be denied that such training can be given through the teaching of the so-called 'academic' subjects.

"The mind is trained by the method of study, not by the content. This is not to say that the content can be ignored. It has to be kept as up-to-date as is possible at the school level or it will not find acceptance among the students as worthwhile material upon which to exercise their intellectual powers."

Mr. Topley stressed that it must relate to the real world outside the classroom. Properly taught, however, the "academic" subjects have just as valuable a part to play in preparing the young to take their places as adult members of the community as have the more obviously society-oriented subjects of the curricula.

He said: "Preparation for life as adults in the wider community outside the school is important and this importance should be recognised in what we teach in our classrooms and in the opportunities we provide in our extra-curricular programmes.

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"To impart knowledge of the community and its problems and to instil a strong community spirit in our pupils should certainly be one of our conscious goals in education. But this should not be done at the expense of what we must still regard as the main aim of education."

The Director paid tribute to Sir Robert Kotewall in this diamond jubilee year of St. Paul's Co-Educational College. He said that it was very appropriate that formal recognition should be given to the long and distinguished service to the school of the Kotewall family - service which began 53 years ago, only seven years after the founding of the school and which had involved, besides Sir Robert, four other members of the family, including the present principal, Dr. Kotewall.

Mr. Topley said Sir Robert was a great man with very wide interests and enthusiasms and his value as a member of the community was recognised by his being called to serve on both the Legislative and Executive Councils, where he greatly distinguished himself. In good times and bad he gave always of his best. The service which he gave to Hong Kong was of the noblest and finest.

"Being himself well-versed in both the Chinese and western cultures he encouraged their coming together and mutual understanding. In Hong Kong in particular he always strove to ensure the harmonious living together of the Chinese and English-speaking communities.

"Throughout his life he constantly sought to improve the living conditions of Hong Kong's residents and played a valuable role in the extension of recreational and cultural facilities available to the general public. He was also one of those responsible for the establishment of many societies in the field of social welfare which still flourish in Hong Kong today," Mr. Topley said.



HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

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TAI HANG TUNG REDEVELOPMENT WORK PROGRESSES SMOOTHLY

Housing Authority's Tai Hang Tung Redevelopment Project is moving ahead as scheduled.

Three multi-storey buildings to serve as reception blocks, are being constructed on the former Tai Hang Sai Cottage Area site.

Building work is progressing well and has now reached the third floor level.

Two more similar blocks are to be built on an adjoining site to provide a total of 1,700 self-contained flats for the existing tenants of Tai Hang Tung Estate.

The Housing Authority today (Friday) invites tenders for site formation work for the latter blocks.

The Tai Hang Tung Redevelopment project involves the rehousing of the 35,000 tenants of the old Tai Hang Tung Estate, giving them a much improved living condition.

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All 14 existing Mark I blocks on the estate will be demolished and in their place will be new 12-storey blocks of self-contained flats with a private balcony, kitchen, toilet and shower.

The future population of the redeveloped estate will still be about 35,000 but because of large site area the population density will drop from the present 2,700 people per acre to 1,700 per acre.

There will be adequate shopping and marketing facilities. It will have its own restaurant, large department store, super market and an ample provision of open space.