



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, July 31, 1973

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EMBARGO Note to Editors: The following announcement is being made simultaneously in London tonight. Publication is permitted in Hong Kong newspapers tomorrow (Wednesday) morning but no news agencies or overseas radio transmissions of the announcement may carry the information without the embargo qualification.

The news may be broadcast from 7 a.m. onwards over the local radio and TV stations tomorrow.

On no account should the recipients be contacted for interviews or for information relative to his career or be approached in any way in connection with the award before this has been publicly announced.

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QUEEN HONOURS FIREMEN, POLICE INSPECTOR AND CIVILIAN FOR GALLANTRY
IN LAST YEAR'S KOTEWALL ROAD HOUSE COLLAPSE

Nine fire officers, a senior police inspector and a civilian engineer have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen for gallantry while taking part in rescue operations at the scene of the Kotewall Road house collapse in June last year.

The firemen were involved in digging a tunnel in an attempt to free a person trapped under hundreds of tons of debris on June 19.

During the rescue operation, it was only possible to work in teams of two with hand equipment to dig an unshored tunnel of about two feet in diameter and about 30 feet in length.

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Throughout there was an imminent danger of possible earth movement and further landslides.

The rescue teams were only able to continue for short periods at a time due to the immense physical exertion. The whole operation lasted 13 hours during which all of them were exposed to extreme danger.

Awarded the George Medal was Mr. Leung Shiu-kay, Station Fire Officer, who spent a total of seven-and-a-half hours in tunnelling work, despite grave personal danger. He displayed courage of a very high order with complete disregard to his own personal safety.

Mr. A.S. Conway, Divisional Officer, and Mr. Ng Kam-hung, Principal Fireman, have been awarded the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry.

It was Mr. Conway who located the trapped person and organised the initial tunnelling for his rescue. He worked continuously for six-and-a-half hours until he was ordered to rest by his superior. His exemplary conduct was an inspiration to all those engaged in the rescue.

Mr. Ng displayed courage and gallantry throughout the five hours he spent tunnelling despite the grave risks involved.

Her Majesty has also approved the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to six other firemen involved in the operation.

They are: Mr. Cheung Shu-shing, Divisional Officer, Mr. J.D. Moran Assistant Divisional Officer, Mr. Tsui Hin-kwing, Station Officer, Kong Kim, Principal Fireman, Mr. Hung Sui-to and Mr. Li Chuen, both firemen.

All displayed great courage and worked for considerable lengths of time to help make the tunnel possible.

The Queen's Commendation also goes to Senior Inspector G.S. Shirra, and Mr. T.A. Berrecloth, a civil engineer.

Insp. Shirra was off-duty at home in Park Road near the Kotewall Road disaster site at about 9 p.m. when he heard sirens and noises outside.

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After learning of the house collapse, he rushed to the scene where, together with firemen, he rescued a Chinese woman who was trapped under concrete and rubble.

At this time, he heard a European boy shouting for help nearby. The boy was trapped under a mass of debris and Insp. Shirra promptly sent for assistance and rescue equipment.

The boy was eventually extricated after more than two hours of effort by the inspector and other rescue workers.

Mr. Berrecloth, a civil engineer not in government service, has previous experience of rescue work.

He went to the scene voluntarily on the evening of June 18 soon after he heard about the Kotewall Road disaster at 9 p.m.

Undeterred by the obvious unstable state of the ruins and the threat of further landslides, he searched around in the debris trying to locate likely places to gain access to survivors.

He was instrumental in locating two women and in assisting firemen in getting them out alive.

Like the others, he acted courageously with complete disregard for his own safety for six hours at the scene.

Judge T.L. Yang, who chaired the subsequent Commission of Inquiry into the disaster, commented after hearing Mr. Berrecloth's evidence:

"He is a gentleman who merits very high commendation..... I hope the authorities concerned will make public recognition of this heroic deed on the part of Mr. Berrecloth."

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Note to Editors: Copies of photographs of the recipients are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this (Tuesday) evening.

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REPORT ON FUTURE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT BEING STUDIED

The report of the Medical Development Advisory Committee on the improvement and expansion of medical and health services in Hong Kong over the next 10 years has been completed, and is now being studied by the government.

The chairman, Dr. Sir Albert Rodrigues, signed and submitted the report to the Governor before the July 31 deadline set by Sir Murray MacLehose himself when he appointed the committee at the end of March this year.

The committee's terms of reference are: "To keep under continuous review and to advise on the development and phased implementation of medical and health services in Hong Kong, having regard to all factors which would determine the progress of expansion -- including financial, the rate of building construction, the availability of qualified staff, and the principles of subvention."

Commenting on the report, Sir Albert said today: "Submission of the report embodying our proposals is not the end of the committee's work. We have adhered to our deadline, but many aspects of medical and health development in the next decade upon which we have touched will have to be reviewed, and if necessary revised, as time goes on."

The recommendations take account of immediate and future requirements of the community on matters affecting medical and health. Full details will be published in a few weeks for public information and comment.

The report itself is expected to be tabled early in the next session of the Legislative Council beginning on October 17.

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SECOND MANPOWER SURVEY OF PRINTING INDUSTRY

A major survey of Hong Kong's printing industry will be carried out between August 15 to September 11.

The survey - the second of its kind - will be conducted by the Printing Industrial Committee of the Industrial Training Advisory Committee, with the assistance of the Labour Department and the Census and Statistics Department.

Questionnaires and explanatory letters in both English and Chinese were sent today to the 473 establishments selected by random stratified sampling.

The information which employers are requested to supply includes: the number of workers presently employed; the number of workers currently under training; the number of existing vacancies; and a forecast of the number of workers required by 1974.

Survey Interviewing Officers of the Census and Statistics Department will visit each of the establishments concerned during the period of the survey to help employers to complete the questionnaire.

The Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Au-Yeung Man-tak, emphasised that the information collected would be handled in strict confidence and would be published only in the form of statistical summaries without reference to any individual establishment.

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EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS URGED TO STRIVE FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Three workers were killed and 366 injured last month in accidents on construction sites, according to figures released today by the Labour Department.

The Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, Mr. Chan Wing-kai, said that nearly half the victims were injured when tripping over objects, being struck by falling objects or falling from heights.

"This is unfortunately the usual pattern of accidents in the construction industry," he said.

Mr. Chan said that in a bid to reduce the present soaring number of accidents in the construction industry, the government was about to introduce legislation to prescribe strict safety measures on construction sites.

However, legislation alone could not solve the problem, he added. What was required was the concerted effort of both managements and workers to work towards the goal of industrial safety.

He said many accidents could have been avoided had managements resorted to some basic precautionary measures.

Workers, on the other hand, should also play an active role in the promotion of industrial safety. They should be aware not only of the need to protect themselves, but of the need to protect other workers in the vicinity, Mr. Chan said.

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RE-TRAINING FOR TRAINED CRAFTSMEN

The need for trained craftsmen to be retrained to keep pace with industrial development and changing modern techniques was stressed today by the Deputy Director of Education (Technical), Mr. Andrew J. Kingwell.

Speaking at the Kwun Tong Vocational Training Centre graduation ceremony, Mr. Kingwell said: "Many of you who are graduates today will find it necessary to be retrained several times before you retire."

He added: "Even if by some magic you have at any time learnt all there is to know about your particular trade, this state will not last for long in the rapidly changing society in which you live."

Referring to the expansion programme for post-primary education in Hong Kong, the Deputy Director said that perhaps one of the most important aspects was planning for technical education.

"The number and proportion of secondary technical schools will be increased and a new curriculum devised so that the graduates of these secondary technical schools will be able to follow higher studies on equal terms with graduates from grammar schools and will be able to pursue successfully careers in a modern industrial society," he said.

"There will also be three-year technical courses in pre-vocational schools and for those who wish and have the ability to continue their education on a full-time basis, bridging courses are being planned in the new technical institutes."

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Hong Kong now had one technical institute at Morrison Hill but by 1975 it was planned to open simultaneously one at Kwai Chung and one in Kwun Tong. "More are to follow and Hong Kong's new Polytechnic is being suitably expanded to provide a wide variety of courses at a higher level," he added.

Mr. Kingwell mentioned that when the technical institute in Kwun Tong was opened there would be opportunities for today's graduates to continue their studies in a variety of courses.

He reminded the graduates that they were fortunate in receiving their initial training at the Kwun Tong Vocational Training Centre which was held in high esteem both in Hong Kong and in the world at large.

Nearly 1,000 visitors from overseas and more than 300 students from 21 different schools had visited the Centre during the year.

Mr. Kingwell urged the graduates to maintain the Centre's good name and prestige, "a good name and prestige which you must cherish, cherish by your own action and courtesies."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Kingwell's speech in both English and Chinese are boxed separately this evening:

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MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS

Students returning from overseas studies who wish to apply for registration as a pharmacist in Hong Kong may have to undergo re-assessment of certain subjects they studied prior to taking up the study of pharmacy.

This applies only to pharmacy graduates from territories which have not entered into reciprocal agreements with the United Kingdom or Hong Kong.

The minimum educational standard for registration required by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board is a grade "C", or its equivalent, in English language, chemistry and mathematics, and either physics or biology.

A "B" grade in general science or additional general science will be regarded as an equivalent to a "C" grade in chemistry and either physics or biology.

As is the present case, the students may also be required to undertake further practical training and then take an examination in subjects specifically related to the practice of pharmacy.

Any student requiring further details may contact the Secretary of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board through the Medical and Health Department or on telephone No: 5-793757.

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URBCO SECRETARY RETIRING

Mr. J.A.M. Tinson, Secretary of the Urban Council is retiring from government service shortly.

To mark the occasion, Mr. D.R.W. Alexander, Director of Urban Services Department will present him with a memento on behalf of friends and colleagues at a ceremony to be held in the Urban Council Chamber at 4 p.m. on Thursday (August 2).

Mr. Tinson joined the government as a clerk in 1948. He was transferred to the Executive Grade in 1950, and in July 1967, was promoted to his present rank of Chief Executive Officer.

During his long career, he has served in the Commerce & Industry Department, Radio Hong Kong, Registration of Persons Office and the Hong Kong Housing Authority, and in certain instances outside the executive grade as Trade Officer and Commissioner of Registration.

He has been Secretary of the Urban Council since 1965, apart from a short break in 1971 when he acted as Assistant Director (Cleansing) of the Urban Services Department. Mr. Tinson has played an important part over the years in the Council's deliberations and achievements.

More recently, he helped prepare the new legislation and administrative procedures which paved the way for the Urban Council to become financially autonomous.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation ceremony at 4 p.m. on Thursday in the Urban Council Chamber on the 12th floor of Central Government Offices, West Wing.

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE

A course has been organised for young people in Tsz Wan Shan later this week to develop their potentials as youth leaders.

The Youth Leadership Training Course is a joint effort between the Tsz Wan Shan Estate Community Work Office of the Social Welfare Department and the Fanling Rotary Youth Centre.

It will be held between August 1 and 4.

"The course is designed for potential and existing group leaders to develop their knowledge, skills and interests so that they can fulfil the needs of developing youth groups in the district," said Mrs. Siu Law Gook-fong, officer-in-charge of the Tsz Wan Shan Estate Community Work Office.

The course will be in two parts. The first will deal with the theory of leadership. Development of technique and skills in organising recreational activities, programme planning in out-door and in-door activities, and value of voluntary services and the qualities of volunteers will also be covered.

The second part of the programme will consist of a practical exercise and a social held at the Fanling Youth Centre on Saturday, August 4.

"The course is aimed at providing guidelines to young people on good leadership," Mrs. Siu explained. "It is hoped that participants will be able to apply what they have learned at the course to help us carry out the various voluntary services for their community."

The course will be opened to young people and students aged 15 and above living in the Tsz Wan Shan District. There will be a \$3 charge. Application forms are obtainable at the office of the Tsz Wan Shan Estate Welfare Building in Hong Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan Estate, Kowloon.

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NEW REGISTRATION VAN

A new mobile van for the registration of identity cards will be ready for service later this year, the Commissioner of Registration of Persons, Mr. J.V.G. Mitchell, disclosed today.

He said the new vehicle -- in the form of a trailer complex attached to a landrover -- is virtually a self-contained mobile office.

Costing about \$50,000, it will be fitted with a camera and air-conditioning.

The trailer is capable of handling as many as 300 registrations a day and will replace the existing 13-year-old mobile van now serving various areas in the New Territories.

The new trailer, a bigger complex measuring 14 feet long, 7½ feet wide and 9 feet high, is now being assembled in a private garage.

The Commissioner said the trailer complex could be left at the site after a day's work and the landrover could return to town with the staff.

Mr. Mitchell said another similar van will be ready early next year for service in the more remote urban areas of Kowloon.

A third one, if approved, will serve Hong Kong Island.

He said the mobile registration vans have proved to be very useful in remote areas, specially for juveniles registering for adult identity cards.

During the past financial year, he said the two existing vans had dealt with a total of 34,838 registrations and issued 31,188 cards.

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Note to Editors: A photograph showing the trailer attached to a landrover will be boxed this evening.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.