



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, November 2, 1973

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GPO EXAMINES POSSIBLE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO UNITED STATES

The Speedpost system introduced two months ago between Hong Kong and Britain has proved popular with businessmen and steps are now being taken to extend it to other countries, including the United States.

At present 160 packages a month are being sent by speedpost -- a fast door-to-door collection and delivery mail express service which guarantees the delivery of packages within the shortest possible time.

"Customers have expressed their satisfaction and have indicated the advantages gained by them," a Post Office spokesman said today.

In view of the potential market for a speedpost service to the United States, steps had been taken to extend the system to that country, he added.

The Post Office, he said, was about to start tests, similar to those previously conducted before establishing speedpost with the United Kingdom, to determine the reliability of such a service to the United States.

"The aim is to offer a service to the public before the end of November," he said. "Packages available at the General Post Office by 10 a.m. will be delivered to some 100 major cities throughout the United States by 3 p.m. the next day."

Businessmen interested in such a service with the United States are invited to contact the General Post Office.

Correspondence is also taking place between Hong Kong postal administration and those of Australia, Canada, Singapore, Japan and Taiwan with a view to establishing similar services.

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HONG KONG TO ATTEND CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. R.E. Downing, will leave for New Zealand tomorrow (Saturday) to attend the 11th Annual Conference of Directors of Civil Aviation in Southeast Asia.

The meeting, which begins in Auckland on Monday (November 5), will last five days.

At the conference, Mr. Downing will present three papers. They are: (1) Airport Expansion Problems At Hong Kong International Airport (2) Equipment Selection Techniques For Hong Kong Airport and (3) Helicopter Operations In The Hong Kong Environment.

The meeting will be attended by delegates from most countries in the Asia and Pacific area.

The United States, Britain and France will also send delegates as they have dependencies in the area.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Civil Aviation Organisation will also be represented.

Mr. Downing is expected to return to Hong Kong next Saturday (November 10).

During his absence, Mr. B.D. Keep will act as Director of Civil Aviation.

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DEMOLITION ORDERS ON FOUR WANCHAI BUILDINGS

The Building Authority has issued notices requiring the demolition of four buildings in Wanchai by February 1.

The buildings are Nos. 5, 7, 9 and 11 Monmouth Terrace, which were closed in late August as being liable to become dangerous. It was stated at the time that demolition of these buildings, which stand above a slope on which a landslip occurred in June 1972, might become necessary.

A spokesman for the Buildings Ordinance Office said today: "We have taken this decision reluctantly, and after allowing time for the owners to put forward any proposals to ensure the stability of these structures by providing additional support for the foundations.

"But we have not received any such proposals, and now safety requirements oblige us to see that the buildings are demolished well in advance of next season's rains. In setting the deadline, we have, of course, allowed as much time as possible for the work of demolition."

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DECLARATION OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Importers and exporters are reminded that they must submit declarations on all imported and exported items within two weeks of importation and exportation.

They must also pay the appropriate value assessment charges on the items within the prescribed 14-day period.

The Director of Commerce and Industry Department warned today that prosecutions would be initiated against those, who, without reasonable excuse, failed to lodge the necessary trade declarations.

Trade declarations submitted outside the 14-day period will be liable, without any further notice, to penalty charges which rise after two months to a maximum of \$50 and \$100 per declaration depending on the value of the articles specified.

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LABOUR OFFICE ATTENDANT RETIRES

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today presented a gold shield to Mr. Tse Tung-tang, Office Attendant of the Labour Department, to mark his retirement after 14 years of service with the Government.

Mr. Tse joined the Labour Department as a messenger in 1959 after serving for 14 years in the former Royal Naval Dockyard. He was promoted to Office Attendant in 1962.

During his service in the department, Mr. Tse has been regarded by all officers as an exceptionally reliable, conscientious and diligent worker. As a result he has been re-appointed by the government.

Mr. Tse is married with four children.

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PRESENTATION OF CAS LONG SERVICE MEDALS

Fifty members of the Civil Aid Services with a combined service record of 768 years will be awarded Civil Defence Long Service medals on Sunday (November 4).

The presentation will be made by Mr. P.C. Woo, Commissioner of the Civil Aid Services, at 11 a.m. at the C.A.S. Kowloon Training Centre, 204 Argyle Street.

The C.A.S. Long Service Medal is awarded to members who have completed 15 years of service.

Mr. Woo will also present the F.E. d'Almada Remedios Cup to the champion team of the annual C.A.S. footdrill competition. Four winning teams will compete in the finals. These are from Kowloon City Warden Zone, Kowloon Rescue Unit, Hong Kong Command Unit and from the Shau Kei Wan Warden Zone.

The panel of judges will consist of members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment and the Royal Hong Kong Police Training School.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the events covered.

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LAND SALE

Three lots of Crown land in Cheung Sha Wan with a total area of 44,610 square feet will be put up for auction in the City Hall later this month.

The lots are for industrial development and are located between Cheung Sha Wan Road and Lai Chi Kok Road.

The auction will start at 2.30 p.m. on November 30 in the City Hall Lecture Room on the 8th floor.

At the same time, another lot for non-industrial development will be offered for sale. This lot is situated at Tung Chau Street, Tai Kok Tsui, and measures about 1,300 square feet.

Sale plans and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Public Enquiry sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), ground floor, Hong Kong, or from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

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GOVERNOR VISITS WESTERN

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today asked Area Committee Chairmen for help in the coming Police Rank And File Recruitment Drive.

He was attending a meeting with members of the Western City District Committee to discuss problems and progress of the Fight Violent Crime Campaign.

Sir Murray said that the recruitment drive was to be a community-wide effort.

There will be 30 Recruiting Centres compared to six in the last drive. They will be open all week including Saturdays and Sundays and will stay open until late in the evening. The City District Office and staff will help in guiding candidates with the application procedures.

In response to criticism that the policeman's pay was too low, the Governor said, the pay scale of the rank and file had been considerably raised. He said the Government hoped not only to draw more recruits but intended to get high-grade policemen in terms of education.

Sir Murray asked for each member of the committee to set himself a target of two to three young men with the right qualifications.

In answer to a question from the Area Committee Chairman from Sheung Wan about the general fear of reprisals for reporting crime the Governor said: "This is basically a 'paper tiger'. If people tried to put their fist through they will find that it goes straight through", and he urged the public to make reports.

After the meeting the Governor visited Tung Hing Building in Sands Street where he was shown how an alarm-bell system in the building works.

Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph taken during the visit are boxed for collection.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.