



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
The Advisory Committee on Telephone Services criticises the Telephone Company for being too conservative in its assessment of demands	1
Queen Elizabeth Hospital now in its tenth year of operation	3
Urban Council plans to increase cultural activities	6
The Director of Education commends local businessmen on their contribution to education	8
The Kennedy Town swimming pool complex will be ready by next summer to serve the residents of Western District	9
Two buildings in Central declared dangerous	10
The Labour Relations Service helped to settle 290 labour disputes in May	11
Water supply to certain premises in Kwai Chung and Central will be interrupted	12
Commission of Inquiry appointed to inquire into anti-bribery ordinance	13

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 1 -

REPORT OF TELEPHONE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The expansion plans of the Hong Kong Telephone Company have been described as "too conservative and follow proven demand rather than in assessing demand and meeting it as it arises."

In its report for 1972, the Advisory Committee on Telephone Services says that unless the company alters its existing policy, the number of people waiting for lines will not be substantially reduced.

At the end of 1972, the number of telephones per 100 people had increased from 17 to 19.4, but the cumulative waiting list stood at 38,271, compared with 31,177 the previous year - showing a wider gap between supply and demand.

Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Mr. P.C. Woo, pointed out that the situation was more critical in the three new industrial towns of Kwun Tong, Yau Tong and Kwai Chung.

He noted, however, that a new telephone exchange at Yau Tong and an extension of the present Kwai Chung telephone exchange were due to come into operation this summer and autumn and this would relieve the situation to a certain extent.

"Problems connected with the telephone directory again taxed the committee's time and attention," Mr. Woo said.

/It was

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 2 -

It was thought that the telephone directory should be split alphabetically in the English edition and by character stroke in the Chinese edition rather than by geographical division as at present.

The method of distribution of the directories was also regarded as unsatisfactory and the company is now investigating a new system whereby subscribers could indicate their requirements by completing a form inserted in the telephone bill for the final quarter.

A special sub-committee was set up during the year to study the Telephone Ordinance in order to make recommendations for its revision.

Another sub-committee -- on telephone services in rural areas -- completed fundamental groundwork on the requirement and development of telephone services in the New Territories.

To assist in solving the technological side of this problem, Mr. Woo said, sites have been approved by the government for the company to install a micro-wave telephone system in the New Territories which would dispense with the difficulty of laying miles of trunk cables to connect with telephone exchanges.

"We hope this would expedite the company's development plans in the area," he added.

- - - - 0 - - - -

13

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 3 -

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN ITS TENTH YEAR

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, one of the biggest in the Commonwealth, is now in its tenth year of operation, and learning to cope with pressures undreamed of when it opened in 1963.

The number of beds in the hospital at that time was 1,338, and this figure remained about the same until 1967. Then the complement was increased to 1,481 to meet a growing demand for admission through the casualty section.

Small increases in the bed complement were made in the next two years, for the same reason, until the total of beds reached 1,525. It then became impossible to put additional normal-size beds into the wards because of physical limitations.

Metal camp beds of smaller size with sorbo rubber mattresses were introduced, and this innovation made it possible for the number of beds to be increased to the present figure of 1,893.

"But since the hospital does not refuse admission of cases whenever recommended by medical officers in the casualty section, even 1,898 beds are sometimes not enough," a spokesman said.

At times, canvas folding beds are brought into service. In the past few months, it has not been unusual to have 70 or more patients in a ward originally designed for 31.

/Approximately

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 4 -

Approximately 76 per cent of all admissions in 1972 came through the casualty section. This section is open 24 hours a day. During 1972, attendance was on an average of 526 patients a day, or one patient every 2.7 minutes.

Clinical units at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital include three surgical, three medical, two obstetrical and gynaecological, two orthopaedic, two paediatric, one radiotherapy and one neurosurgical. In addition, there are four smaller units covering ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, dermatology and dental.

There are six operating theatre suites, each consisting of two major and one minor theatre. There are also three delivery suites for maternity cases.

The hospital has the usual ancillary departments such as radiology, pathology, pharmacy, central sterile supply, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, central kitchen, milk kitchen, and laundry.

The central kitchen serves about 5,000 meals a day, and the laundry processes as many as 1,680,000 pieces a month.

The hospital is served by a consultants' out-patient clinic located in a separate building from the main hospital. Patients seen here are referred from doctors in private practice, and other government clinics, for an opinion or admission.

The decision to build the hospital was taken in 1952. In March 1959, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone.

/Two Public

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 5 -

Two Public Works Department architects, Mr. Edwin Wong and Mr. John Hirst, were presented the Royal Institute of British Architects' Bronze Medal Award for 1963 for their design of the hospital.

The medal is presented for a building of exceptional merit.

The complex occupies a 30-acre site on a small hill in the centre of Kowloon peninsula. It cost \$49,140,000 to build, and \$14,500,000 to furnish and equip, including a donation of \$6,000,000 from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for the Radiological Institute. The hospital admitted its first patient in December, 1963.

.....

Note to Editors: You are invited to attend an "open day" at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Friday, June 15, at 2.15 p.m. The timing of the tour coincides with the visiting hour, and this will give the press an idea of the pressure generated by the arrival and departure of hundreds of visitors. The press, including radio and TV, will assemble at that time in the hall within the main entrance to the hospital, where they will be met by the Medical Superintendent, the Chief Hospital Secretary, and the Senior Hospital Secretary. A tour of the casualty section, wards, and certain departments will follow. Pictures will be possible, provided close-ups are avoided out of deference to the privacy of patients. The "open day" will end with tea and questions in the staff canteen.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 6 -

FUTURE PLANS TO INCREASE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Chairman of the Urban Council, Mr. A. de O. Sales, today gave the public an insight into some of the "exciting" plans and projects envisaged by the Council.

He told a luncheon meeting of the Soroptomists Club about a long - advocated cultural complex for Kowloon which he describes as an "ambitious scheme," but well within Hong Kong's means.

He said that it would be, in effect, a prestigious civic centre meeting the community's needs for decades to come.

Mr. de Sales also strongly criticised "itinerants" who described Hong Kong as a "cultural desert".

"Nothing gives the lie more eloquently to this derogatory statement than the facts and figures available monthly to all who want to see them.

"Indeed, it is not even necessary to go so far as to examine these returns because our press carries daily a list of happenings in the City Hall and other places, in addition to which there are reports and reviews published monthly," Mr. de Sales said.

He pointed out that the Urban Council presented many entertainment and educational programmes in both the City Hall and at other locations.

Last year, for example, there were in the City Hall no less than 708 performances made up of 221 concerts and recitals, 173 plays, 43 ballet and other dance presentations, 65 variety shows, 10 hi-fi concerts and 198 film shows.

/"And,

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 7 -

"And, well over a million people attended all these activities," he said.

Mr. de Sales explained that it was the council's intention to sponsor an even greater variety of cultural presentations and that it will continue to enlarge the scope of cultural interest in Hong Kong and, in the process, it will give an opportunity to local talent to develop.

It is hoped also to attract more overseas artists of standing to perform locally.

With Hong Kong's growing affluence, more opportunities for education and far greater exposure through modern media of communication, it is inevitable that the expectation of the people for a better life must likewise rise as it does virtually everywhere else, Mr. de Sales said.

"For this reason, the council must never stand still, it must always keep moving forward.

"The aim," he said "is to educate and entertain, to give joy and pleasure, to encourage and develop. The purpose is to support cultural activities in the interest of the community as a whole and to afford the opportunity previously lacking for Hong Kong talent to develop."

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text are boxed tonight.

----- 0 -----

/8

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 8 -

BUSINESSMEN HELP PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning today paid tribute to successful businessmen in Hong Kong for their public spirited attitude in matters of education.

He was speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School in Ho Man Tin.

Mr. Canning said: "It is in keeping with the best Chinese traditions of public service, in keeping with the tradition that those who are successful should help those less fortunate and I would like to thank all those responsible for this school."

He pointed out that the school was "another example of the splendid co-operation that exists between the government and the voluntary agencies in Hong Kong in their joint endeavour to provide secondary schools for our community."

The immense amount of time, effort and money given to education by organisations such as the Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce was not sufficiently appreciated in Hong Kong, he added.

Work on the new school project is progressing smoothly and it is expected to be finished in September this year.

The Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce already operates a primary school catering for some 2,000 pupils.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 9 -

KENNEDY TOWN SWIMMING COMPLEX - READY NEXT SEASON

Work on the largest swimming pool complex on Hong Kong Island, at a site formerly occupied by the Kennedy Town cattle quarantine depot, is progressing well.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that the complex should be completed shortly before the start of the next swimming season.

Construction of the filtration plant room, menial staff quarters and the swimming pool sub-structure have been completed, while the structural frame work of the main building itself, including a covered spectator stand for 800 people and a covered refreshment area, changing and toilet facilities, is almost finished.

The swimming pool complex, capable of accommodating up to 4,000 people at one time, is designed to take both fresh and sea water so it can be used even in times of acute water shortage.

It comprises two 50-metre pools, a diving pool, a paddling pool and a water-play area for children.

It is similar to its counterparts at Kwun Tong, Lei Cheng Uk and Morse Park, except that teaching pools have been omitted because of the restricted area of the site.

However, one of the 50-metre pools can be roped off for teaching purposes.

/The whole

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 10 -

The whole project, costing about \$8 million, is being built with funds donated by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

When completed early next year, the complex will provide much-needed recreational facilities for people in the densely-populated Western district.

Public swimming pools are very popular and the six 'district pools' managed by the Urban Council attracted over 3.6 million swimmers during the year 1972/73.

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing an artist's impression of the complex are boxed this evening.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared 221 Wing Lok Street and 57 Bonham Strand West on Hong Kong Island to be in a dangerous condition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these four-storey pre-war buildings had been under observation for a considerable period following the demolition of adjoining dangerous buildings.

Fresh movement had recently occurred in the walls giving rise to a risk of collapse. Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on July 25 were posted today.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 11 -

290 LABOUR PROBLEMS SETTLED IN MAY

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department last month helped settle 290 disputes.

Disclosing this today, the head of the service, Mr. T.F. Tsui, said that as a result of agreements reached, 681 employees had received a total of \$291,255.

Of this total, just over 83 per cent was paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, statutory holiday pay and bonuses.

The remaining 16.9 per cent or \$49,306 was paid, apart from legal entitlements, as severance pay and other ex-gratia payments to employees.

Mr. Tsui said: "Officers of the Labour Relations Service also handled 1,492 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management.

"They visited 22 establishments to help employers introduce joint consultative machinery to strengthen communication between labour and management," he said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 12 -

WATER CUTS IN CENTRAL AND KWAI CHUNG

Water supply to a number of premises in Kwai Chung and in Central District on Hong Kong Island will be cut off for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Friday (June 15) to 6 a.m. the next morning.

The temporary stoppages are to allow staff of the Waterworks Office to make a fresh water connection at the junction of Ta Cheun Ping Street and Shek Kin Street in Kwai Chung and to add an additional valve in Central, as well as connecting pipes.

The places affected in Kwai Chung are King Land Industrial Building, Mercantile Godown, Ying Fung Distillery Building, Kin Ming Building, Wah Fung Dyeing Building, Central Industrial Building, the Oriental Industrial Building, the Sun Manufactory Ltd. and Wo Fung Industrial Building, all in Ta Cheun Ping Street.

On the Island, areas affected will be Des Voeux Road Central, No. 60-78 including Man Yee Building; Queen's Road Central, No. 67-85 and Queen Victoria Street, No. 2-16.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Wednesday, June 13, 1973

- 13 -

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ANTI-BRIBERY ORDINANCE

The Governor in Council has today (Wednesday) appointed the Hon. Mr. Justice Blair-Kerr, as the Commissioner of a Commission of Inquiry with the following terms of reference:-

- (a) To report on the circumstances in which a person, whose prosecution under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance was at an advanced stage of consideration, was able to leave Hong Kong.
- (b) In the light of experience of the working of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, and having regard also to the need to preserve basic human rights under the law, to:
 - (i) report on the effectiveness of the Ordinance and to suggest amendments;
 - (ii) to suggest any other changes in current arrangements considered necessary.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Blair-Kerr will be the only member of the Commission; he has been asked to report on the first term of reference within three weeks and the second term of reference within three months.

It has been left entirely to the discretion of the Commissioner whether any part of the hearings are held in public.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 7.45 p.m.