

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONG KONG,

24th January, 1941.

In connexion with His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government's appeal of 9th January, 1941, for volunteers to provide anti-sabotage guards on board ships in Hong Kong Harbour, the following additional information may assist employers and those who are in some doubt as to whether they should volunteer for this duty.

(1) Guards will only be required during the continuance of the Colony's present situation and the scheme will cease to function should the Colony be directly involved in war.

(2) No fear need be entertained that the time of guards who are detailed for duty will be wasted in waiting for the ship to which they are allotted since it will be possible to arrange for them to return to their offices provided they can be communicated with by telephone at short notice.

(3) The 12 hour duty period will not entail spending 12 hours continuously on guard, which would, in the case of night duty, impair the efficiency of the guards in their normal employment on the following day. It is anticipated that out of 3 guards, 1 will be on duty, 1 standing by and 1 off duty at any given time if the ship is working cargo. It will be appreciated that each person will be on full duty for only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the 12 hour period.

(4) It is realized that certain persons may hesitate to volunteer since, in the course of their normal employment, they may be liable to sudden business calls at short notice and at any hour of the day or night. It is hoped however that such persons will volunteer since, if there is a satisfactory response to the appeal, it will be possible to make arrangements with regard to times of duty to meet difficulties in individual cases.

(5) Members of the regular army in Hong Kong will take part in this scheme and it is anticipated that this will further reduce the frequency of each person's periods of duty.

(6) It is particularly emphasized that the greater the response to this call for volunteers the lighter will be the duty of each person. So far as can at present be foreseen, it is probable that, if all those who are asked to volunteer will undertake to assist, each person's turn for a period of 12 hours duty will come only once in 6 to 8 weeks or even less frequently.

N. L. SMITH,

*Colonial Secretary.*