



Received by PRO

on 24 MAR 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
VITAL ROLE FOR WOMEN IN FIGHT AGAINST AIDS	1
INSURANCE AGENT FINED FOR TAX EVASION	2
CNTA HANDLES OVER 9.6 MILLION CASES IN 1992	3
CALL FOR MORE FOSTER PARENTS	4
CHEST CLINIC ON MOVE	4
FIRING PRACTICE IN APRIL	5
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	5

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993

- 1 -

VITAL ROLE FOR WOMEN IN FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

* * * * *

WOMEN CAN HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE ATTITUDE OF SOCIETY TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND IN PROMOTING WAYS TO PREVENT THE DISEASE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS IS EVEN MORE CRUCIAL WHEN WE THINK OF A WOMAN'S ROLE IN THE FAMILY WHICH IS THE BASIC UNIT OF CARING IN OUR SOCIETY," SHE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE "WOMEN AND AIDS" SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN TODAY (SATURDAY), MRS WONG SAID AIDS AFFLICTED PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUFFERING ON THE INDIVIDUAL.

"MORE THAN THAT, THE PAIN IS OFTEN FELT BY THE ENTIRE FAMILY: NOT LEAST THE BURDEN OF A CHRONICALLY ILL FAMILY MEMBER AND THE TRAUMA OF DISCRIMINATION AND ALIENATION.

"AIDS IS A CHALLENGE TO THE INTEGRITY OF A FAMILY. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE SUFFERING FOR THE MOTHER IN PARTICULAR."

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT PATIENTS WHO HAD AN INTACT FAMILY AND WHO WERE WELL BACKED BY OTHER MEMBERS, WERE OFTEN BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS OF THE DISEASE.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MOTHER IS PARAMOUNT," SHE STRESSED, ADDING THAT A GOOD AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAMME SHOULD START IN THE FAMILY BECAUSE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS LEARN AS THEY GROW AND THIS LEARNING PROCESS IS INITIATED IN THE FAMILY AND CONSOLIDATED IN SCHOOLS.

QUOTING A RECENT SURVEY, MRS WONG SAID OVER 90 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY HAD VIEWED AIDS ADVERTISEMENTS ON TELEVISION AND OVER 70 PER CENT REMARKED THAT THEIR AIDS KNOWLEDGE HAD IMPROVED AS A RESULT.

"THIS IS A GOOD START," SHE SAID. "PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MEDIA SHOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FAMILY TO TALK ABOUT AIDS, AND FOR PARENTS TO IMPRESS UPON CHILDREN THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR, AS THEY RELATE TO THE DISEASE."

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE ALSO NOTED THAT EIGHT CASES OF HIV INFECTED WOMEN WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR, COMPARED WITH 10 KNOWN CASES FROM 1985 TO 1991.

"THIS IS A WORRYING TREND, AND EVEN MORE FRIGHTENING TO THINK THAT WIVES ARE BEING INFECTED THROUGH THEIR HUSBANDS," SHE SAID.

THE MAIN SOURCES OF INFECTION WERE THROUGH SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, TRANSFUSION OF CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS, SHARING NEEDLES FOR DRUG INJECTION AND PERINATALLY FROM AN INFECTED MOTHER TO HER OFFSPRING.

/BUT SHE

BUT SHE WAS QUICK TO ADD THAT PERSON COULD NOT GET AIDS FROM NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS WITH HIV-INFECTED PERSONS, SUCH AS FROM SHAKING HANDS OR HUGGING, HAVING MEALS TOGETHER, WORKING IN THE SAME OFFICE OR FACTORY, OR ATTENDING THE SAME SCHOOL.

RECOUNTING THE ESSENTIAL GROUNDWORK THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN COMBATting AIDS, MRS WONG SAID TIME HAD COME FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ADOPT A LEADERSHIP ROLE TO OVERCOME THE PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIV PATIENTS.

"THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAVE THEREFORE DEDICATED 1993 TO BE THE YEAR OF A CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT AIDS IN DIFFERENT WAYS," SHE SAID.

"WE WILL THIS YEAR PUT IN PLACE PLANS FOR A MAJOR PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, AND FOR SUSTAINING THIS EFFORT IN COMING YEARS," MRS WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INSURANCE AGENT FINED FOR TAX EVASION
* * * * *

AN INSURANCE AGENT AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WERE FOUND GUILTY IN THE WESTERN MAGISTRACY OF MAKING A FALSE CLAIM OF SUB-AGENTS' SALARIES WITH WILFUL INTENT TO EVADE TAX.

THE FIRST DEFENDANT, MR LAU YIU-CHEUNG, AGED 35, IS AN INSURANCE AGENT, TRADING IN THE NAME OF CASEY LAU & COMPANY. HE WAS CHARGED WITH MAKING FALSE CLAIMS IN HIS TAX RETURNS.

THE SECOND DEFENDANT MR LAU YIU-MING, THE YOUNGER BROTHER, AGED 29, WAS CHARGED WITH AIDING AND ABETTING THE FIRST DEFENDANT.

THEY DENIED FIVE CHARGES OF TAX EVASION AND WERE CONVICTED AFTER TRIAL BEFORE MAGISTRATE MR G A ANDREE WILTENS.

MR LAU YIU-CHEUNG WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$80,000 AND WAS SENTENCED TO ONE MONTH'S IMPRISONMENT, SUSPENDED FOR 18 MONTHS.

MR LAU YIU-MING WAS ORDERED TO PAY \$22,500 IN FINE AND SENTENCED TO ONE MONTH'S IMPRISONMENT, SUSPENDED FOR 18 MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT TAX EVASION WAS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, A TAX EVADER IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON EACH CHARGE, IN ADDITION TO A FURTHER FINE EQUIVALENT TO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993

- 3 -

CNTA HANDLES OVER 9.6 MILLION CASES IN 1992

* * * * *

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HANDLED MORE THAN 9.6 MILLION CASES AND ENQUIRIES LAST YEAR.

THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESCS) LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY HANDLED 9,498,480 ENQUIRIES WHILE THE REMAINDER, 150,682 ENQUIRIES, WERE RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE (CTEC).

THE CTEC WAS SET UP IN APRIL 1991 AT CNTA'S HEADQUARTERS IN WAN CHAI TO BACK UP THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PESCS AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

TOPPING THE LIST OF ENQUIRIES WAS DECLARATION SERVICE (196,844), FOLLOWED BY SUBJECTS ON OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS LOCATIONS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND OPENING HOURS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES (168,670) AND THOSE SEEKING INFORMATION ON OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES (151,264).

THE PESCS ALSO ADMINISTERED A TOTAL OF 470,925 DECLARATIONS, OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR EMIGRATION OR OVERSEAS VISITS (145,482), SUBMISSION TO NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES (142,954) AND OVERSEAS EXAMINATIONS OR SCHOOLING (113,067).

IN ADDITION, 6,169,597 FORMS AND OTHER INFORMATION SHEETS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC LAST YEAR.

THEY INCLUDED APPLICATION FORMS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT (366,124), HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (206,327) AND REGISTRATION ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST (151,557).

UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, A TOTAL OF 2,633 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY DURING THE PAST YEAR WITH 2,324 CASES HANDLED BY VOLUNTARY SOLICITORS AND 124 CASES REFERRED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

INTRODUCED IN 1978, THIS SERVICE IS BEING OFFERED IN FIVE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES (WAN CHAI, YAU TSIM, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN).

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE RENT OFFICERS OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HANDLED 15,118 ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO RENTAL AND TENANCY PROBLEMS.

THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME, ALSO IMPLEMENTED IN 1978, IS BEING OPERATED AT 10 URBAN DISTRICT OFFICES AND FIVE DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED BY CNTA MAY APPROACH ANY OF THE PESCS WHICH ARE LOCATED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES OR CALL THE CTEC ON TEL 835 2500.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 4 -

CALL FOR MORE FOSTER PARENTS

* * * * *

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO COUPLES TO JOIN THE TEAM OF FOSTER PARENTS.

"WHILE SOME FAMILIES ARE PLANNING THEIR 'FAMILY DAY' IN THE COMING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, THERE ARE SOME OTHER CHILDREN IN NEED OF PARENTAL LOVE AND CARE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOSTER CARE IS A FORM OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICE WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FOR ORPHANS OR CHILDREN WHO LACK ADEQUATE FAMILY CARE BECAUSE OF NEGLECT, ILLNESS OF PARENTS OR OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

THROUGH FOSTERING, CHILDREN CAN GROW UNDER A PROPER FAMILY SETTING AND ENJOY HAPPY CHILDHOOD, HE SAID.

"FOSTER PARENTS CAN, ON THE ONE HAND, SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND ON THE OTHER, POLISH THEIR PARENTHOOD SKILLS," HE SAID.

TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE FOSTER CARE SERVICES, A SERIES OF NINE ROVING EXHIBITIONS WILL BE HELD AT PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT LEI TUNG ESTATE ON AP LEI CHAU NEXT TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

THE EXHIBITIONS WILL FEATURE DISPLAY BOARDS, VIDEO SHOWS AND BRIEFINGS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHEST CLINIC ON MOVE

* * * * *

THE CHEST CLINIC AT SHATIN CLINIC AND MATERNITY HOME WILL MOVE TO THE YUEN CHAU KOK CHEST CLINIC AT 29 CHAP WAI KON STREET, SHA TIN ON MARCH 31 (WEDNESDAY).

ANNOUNCING THE RELOCATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT AFTER THE MOVE, THE CHEST CLINIC WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS EVERY WEEK:

* WEDNESDAY 8.30 AM TO 12.45 PM, AND
1.45 PM TO 4.45 PM

* FRIDAY 8.30 AM TO 12.45 PM

THE CLINIC WILL BE CLOSED ON ALL OTHER DAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993

- 5 -

FIRING PRACTICE IN APRIL

* * * * *

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON NINE DAYS NEXT MONTH (APRIL).

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES FOR THE FIRING PRACTICE:

DATE -----	TIME -----
APRIL 13 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 14 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 15 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 16 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 26 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 27 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 28 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 29 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
APRIL 30 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,650
REVERSAL OF LAF	+500
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,020
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,130

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.6 *+0.0* 20.3.1993

- - - - 0 - - - -