



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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COMPUTERISED PROGRAMME TO GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO DRUGS PROBLEM
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THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICY-MAKERS ARE AWAITING THE FIRST SERIES OF REPORTS FROM A NEW AND FULLY COMPUTERISED DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH PROGRAMME WHICH PROMISES TO GIVE THEM A COMPREHENSIVE INSIGHT INTO THE DRUG PROBLEM IN HONG KONG.

COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS WILL BE POURING OUT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S DATA PROCESSING DIVISION IN THE FORM OF HUNDREDS OF STATISTICAL TABLES OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, TO REVEAL A MORE DETAILED, UP-TO-DATE PICTURE OF THE TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL DRUG PROBLEM. THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS EXISTING TREATMENT AND PREVENTION PROGRAMMES.

THIS RESERVOIR OF VALUABLE INFORMATION IS A RESULT OF 30 MONTHS OF HARD WORK BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO FULLY RE-ORGANISE AND COMPUTERISE ITS RESEARCH MACHINERY - THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS (CRDA).

THE CRDA, IN ITS NEW AND COMPUTERISED FORM, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN ASIA.

THE RE-ORGANISATION BEGAN IN APRIL 1976 WHEN THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, AND A SWEDISH-AMERICAN CONSULTANT, MR. BENT WERBELL, SPENT FOUR MONTHS IN PRODUCING A MASTER PLAN FOR A NEW DATA COLLECTION PROCESS, A COMPUTER SYSTEM AND STAFF REQUIREMENT TO RUN THE NEW REGISTRY.

THE COLLECTION OF RECORDS ON DRUG ADDICTS FOR COMPUTER ANALYSIS BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1976. UP TO THE MIDDLE OF LAST MONTH, MORE THAN 58,000 RECORDS HAD BEEN COLLECTED ON ABOUT 28,000 ADDICTS WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH 21 GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DEALING IN ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ORGANISATIONS, SOCIAL WELFARE BODIES AND HOSPITALS.

THROUGH A SPECIALLY-DESIGNED COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH IS UNIQUE IN HONG KONG, THESE RECORDS ARE NOW BEING PROCESSED INTO THE REGISTRY'S DATA BASE WHICH WILL PROVIDE RELIABLE MATERIAL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ON WHICH ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICIES CAN BE FORMULATED, AND FROM WHICH ASSESSMENTS CAN BE MADE OF SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION.

THE DATA WILL, FOR INSTANCE, INDICATE THE TYPICAL PROFILE OF DRUG ADDICTS, CHANGES IN THE TYPES OF DRUGS BEING ABUSED, AND WHETHER ABUSE IS SPREADING TO PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN AREAS.

/A SPOKESMAN

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID A UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE CRDA COMPUTER PROGRAMME, IS THAT IT CAN IDENTIFY RECORDS RECEIVED ON THE SAME PERSON OVER A PERIOD EVEN IF THE NAME, IDENTITY CARD NUMBER OR OTHER PARTICULARS REPORTED IN THE RECORD SHEETS ARE NOT CONSISTENT EVERY TIME.

+IN SHORT, THE COMPUTER CAN DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TEN ADDICTS EACH REPORTED ONCE AND ONE ADDICT REPORTED TEN TIMES,+ HE SAID.

+THE LACK OF SUCH CAPABILITY IN THE OLD CRDA SYSTEM WAS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE REVAMPING BECAUSE RECORDS WITH THE I.D. CARD NUMBER MISSING OR THE NAME WRITTEN IN THE WRONG CHINESE CHARACTERS OFTEN LED TO CONFUSION IN THE OLD SYSTEM AS TO WHETHER CERTAIN RECORDS BELONGED TO THE SAME PERSON OR DIFFERENT PERSONS,+ HE EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE NEW CRDA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IS THAT IT CAN PRODUCE STATISTICAL TABLES BI-MONTHLY OR WHENEVER REQUIRED, COMPARED TO THE OLD SYSTEM WHICH COULD PRODUCE TABULATIONS ONLY ONCE A YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INFORMATION ON ALL INDIVIDUAL ADDICTS IS KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL IN THE CRDA.

+OUR INTENTION IS TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DRUG PROBLEM AND TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EFFORTS, NOT TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR USE AGAINST ADDICTS IN ANY WAY,+ HE SAID.

THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CRDA OWED MUCH TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH HAS FINANCED THE CONSULTANCY OF MR. BENT WERBELL, AN EXPERT WHO HAD FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF THIS SPECIALISED TYPE OF WORK THROUGH HIS MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW YORK CITY NARCOTICS REGISTER.

HE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG, FOR HIS THIRD ANNUAL VISIT TODAY, AND WILL SPEND SIX WEEKS HERE IN REVIEWING THE INITIAL OPERATION OF THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM.

IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS ALSO FUNDING THE CONSULTANCY OF ANOTHER EXPERT, DR. ROBERT NEWMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTRE IN NEW YORK CITY WHO FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG THREE AND A HALF YEARS AGO AND, IN THE COURSE OF A REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR DRUG DEPENDENTS, MADE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, RECOMMENDED THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CRDA.

HE IS EXPECTED TO VISIT HONG KONG FOR TWO WEEKS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, WHEN HE WILL ADVISE ON THE INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE NEW REGISTRY.

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SUPERDOG HAS NOSE FOR DRUGS

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A SUPERDOG TRAINED TO SNIFF OUT DRUGS WILL SOON JOIN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE.

THE DOG, NAMED DEWARS, IS A GERMAN BREED GIVEN TO THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE AS A GIFT BY THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

DEWARS WAS RECENTLY BROUGHT BACK TO HONG KONG BY CUSTOMS INSPECTOR POON YEUNG-KWONG WHO WAS SELECTED TO RECEIVE DOG-HANDLING TRAINING IN THE U.S.A.

THE TWO-YEAR-OLD DOG WAS GIVEN 14 WEEKS OF INTENSIVE DRUG DETECTION TRAINING IN VIRGINIA LAST SUMMER AND GAINED THE TITLE OF +SUPERDOG+ FOR HIS EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN TWO ADVANCED TESTS.

THE STANDARD OF THE TESTS IS SO HIGH THAT ONLY ONE IN 129 DOGS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED IN PASSING THE TEST.

DEWARS, WHO WAS QUARANTINED AT THE GOVERNMENT KENNEL SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG, HAS NOW JOINED 'OLIVER', HIS TEAM-MATE, TO FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.

BEFORE HIS RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE, DEWARS WAS GIVEN A REFRESHER COURSE AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG TO SHARPEN HIS SENSE IN ANTI-DRUGS WORK.

INSPECTOR POON REVEALED THAT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE HAS A PLAN IN HAND, PENDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL, TO EXPAND ITS DOG UNIT TO ASSIST CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN THEIR DRUG DETECTION WORK.

HE SAID: +ONCE THE PLAN IS APPROVED, WE WILL TRAIN OUR DOGS LOCALLY WITH ALL THE EXISTING EXPERTISE AND FACILITIES.+

INSPECTOR POON POINTED OUT THAT ONCE A DOG IS PROPERLY TRAINED, IT CAN EASILY SNIFF OUT DRUGS CONCEALED IN ANY OBJECT WITH FALSE COMPARTMENTS.

+ANOTHER MERIT OF A TRAINED NARCOTICS DOG IS THAT IT CAN WORK MUCH FASTER THAN A MAN IN SEARCHING PASSENGERS' LUGGAGES FOR DRUGS. IT CAN INSPECT ABOUT 500 ITEMS OF LUGGAGES OR PARCELS IN 30 MINUTES WHILE IT TAKES MUCH MORE TIME FOR A CUSTOMS OFFICER TO COMPLETE THE WORK,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY INTERPOL, DOGS HAVE PLAYED A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN NARCOTICS DETECTION WORK IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

THIS HAS LED TO THE USE OF MORE DOGS BY LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THERE WERE 945 DOGS IN 35 COUNTRIES TRAINED IN THIS KIND OF WORK IN 1975 COMPARED WITH 251 IN 13 COUNTRIES IN 1971.

SCHEME TO HELP DISABLED CHILDREN TO INTEGRATE INTO COMMUNITY
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS JOINED HANDS WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO LAUNCH A TRIAL SCHEME WHICH AIMS TO HELP INTEGRATE DISABLED CHILDREN INTO THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING THEM PRE-SCHOOL CARE IN DAY NURSERIES.

UNDER THE SCHEME, CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX YEARS WITH MINOR DISABILITIES CAN BE REFERRED FOR ADMISSION INTO GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES WHERE THEY CAN INTEGRATE WITH NORMAL CHILDREN OF THEIR AGE.

THE EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED LAST MONTH AFTER THE DEPARTMENT BEGAN LAST YEAR EXPLORING WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING PRE-SCHOOL CARE UNITS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IN THEIR NURSERIES.

AS A RESULT, SIX WELFARE AGENCIES HAVE RESPONDED TO THE IDEA AND STARTED OPERATING SUCH UNITS IN NINE SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES RUN BY THEM. ANOTHER NURSERY WILL JOIN THE SCHEME IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

MR. LAU KAI-CHUEN, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, SAID TODAY THOSE NURSERIES JOINING THE TRIAL SCHEME WERE ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL SUBVENTION TO MEET ADDITIONAL STAFF COST.

+IN ADDITION, GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND ARE AVAILABLE FOR NECESSARY STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS AND THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL FACILITIES AND TRAINING FOR STAFF,+ HE SAID.

TO BEGIN WITH, MR. LAU SAID, THE NUMBER OF DISABLED CHILDREN TO BE ADMITTED TO EACH PARTICIPATING NURSERY IS LIMITED TO SIX.

+ONLY CHILDREN WITH MINOR DISABILITIES - THOSE WHO ARE MILD-GRADE MENTALLY RETARDED, SLIGHTLY PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OR SLIGHTLY IMPAIRED IN SPEECH, HEARING OR SIGHT - ARE ADMITTED,+ HE SAID.

ADMISSIONS ARE BY WAY OF REFERRALS MADE BY WELFARE AGENCIES AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH, AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS.

MR. LAU SAID THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE WAS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MILD-GRADE DISABLED CHILDREN TO MIX WITH NORMAL CHILDREN IN A HOMELY SETTING AS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THEIR SOCIAL REHABILITATION PROCESS.

+IF THE SCHEME PROVES SUCCESSFUL, IT IS HOPED THAT THIS SPECIAL SERVICE COULD BE EXPANDED ON A LARGER SCALE TO BENEFIT MORE DISABLED CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

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OVER 1,500 PROSECUTIONS TAKEN OUT AGAINST
FIRE REGULATION VIOLATORS IN FIRST HALF OF 1978

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 1,549 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST DOMESTIC TENANTS AND COMMERCIAL AND FACTORY PROPRIETORS FOR BREAKING FIRE REGULATIONS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR -- A DROP OF ABOUT 18 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1,826 IN SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL FINES IMPOSED IN THESE CASES AMOUNTED TO \$402,220 -- \$303,565 LESS THAN FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THE CASES MAINLY RELATED TO OBSTRUCTION OF STAIRCASES AND MEANS OF ESCAPE, FAILURE TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS WITHIN BUILDINGS OR TO COMPLY WITH FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THESE ARE THE OFFENCES MOST COMMONLY DISCOVERED BY FIRE OFFICERS DURING INSPECTIONS.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE FIRE REGULATIONS AND REPORT ANY FIRE HAZARD TO THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ON 5-281224 WHICH MAINTAINS A ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE.

DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS THIS YEAR, FIRE OFFICERS CONDUCTED 133,467 INSPECTIONS, RE-INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP VISITS TO RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OF THESE MORE THAN 86,000 INSPECTIONS WERE PROMPTED BY COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND 76,179 WERE RELATED TO BLOCKAGES OF MEANS OF ESCAPE.

THERE WERE 8,230 ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF MEANS OF ESCAPE AND 25,232 VISITS TO FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

IN ADDITION, OVER 7,700 VISITS WERE MADE TO PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, RESTAURANTS AND NIGHT CLUBS, SCHOOLS, TIMBER YARDS AND STORAGE AND INSPECTIONS OF VENTILATION SYSTEMS.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 2,485 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE ON THE STORAGE AND MANUFACTURING OF DANGEROUS GOODS, 2,136 ON FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, 1,002 ON VEHICLES USED FOR CONVEYING COMPRESSED GASES AND INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, AND 381 ON CHILD CARE CENTRES.

A TOTAL OF 3,936 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE PROCESSED AND 1,626 DANGEROUS GOODS AND TIMBER YARDS STORAGE LICENCES WERE ISSUED OR RENEWED.

FIRE OFFICERS ALSO CONDUCTED IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATIONS INTO CAUSES OF 37 FIRES AND GAVE 75 FIRE PREVENTION LECTURES.

THE NUMBER OF FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES ISSUED BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, TOTALLED 4,664.

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COUNTRY PARKS SOUVENIRS FOR SALE

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COUNTRY PARKS T-SHIRTS, CAPS AND TIES DESIGNED TO CREATE A GREATER AWARENESS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS PROGRAMME, PARTICULARLY THE COUNTRY CODE, ARE NOW ON SALE.

THE T-SHIRTS, WITH THE SLOGAN +TAKE ONLY PHOTOS= LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS RESPECT YOUR COUNTRYSIDE+, ARE ILLUSTRATED WITH A FILM FRAME SHOWING ONLY A PAIR OF SANDSHOES. THE T-SHIRTS, THE CAPS AND TIES ALL BEAR THE COUNTRY PARKS LOGO.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY SAID: +WITH AN ESTIMATED FOUR MILLION VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY PARKS THIS YEAR, CONSERVATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. THE SLOGAN IS TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND NOT TO TAKE THE FLORA= TO LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS AND NOT LITTER.+

THE SOUVENIRS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING= THE HONG KONG HERBARIUM EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY, STAR HOUSE, KOWLOON= AND AT THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST BOOK CENTRES.

THE T-SHIRTS SELL FOR \$6, THE CAPS FOR \$1 AND THE TIES (IN EITHER BLUE OR GREEN) FOR \$12.

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NO MAIL DELIVERY ON MONDAY

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON MONDAY (AUGUST 7) WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

ON THAT DAY, 32 POST OFFICES, INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN HO MAN TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 8) NORTHBOUND VEHICLES FROM PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT TO PERTH STREET IN HO MAN TIN.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD WISHING TO GAIN ACCESS TO PERTH STREET ARE ADVISED TO TURN LEFT AT THE HO MAN TIN INTERCHANGE INTO PUI CHING ROAD AND FAT KWONG STREET, AND THEN TO TURN LEFT INTO SHEUNG SHING STREET AND SHEK KU STREET WHICH CONNECTS DIRECTLY WITH PERTH STREET.

THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BENEATH THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER AND TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW AT THIS LOCATION.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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