



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1982

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TEXTILES TALKS STILL AT PRELIMINARY STAGE

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+THE HONG KONG/EEC NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL AT A PRELIMINARY STAGE,+ SAID MR LAWRENCE MILLS, HONG KONG'S COMMISSIONER OF TRADE IN A PRESS STATEMENT FROM BRUSSELS.

+WE HAVE COMPLETED A WEEK OF TALKS AND MOST OF THE TIME HAS BEEN TAKEN UP WITH THE PRESENTATION BY THE EEC OF THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILES TO THE COMMUNITY WHEN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

+WE ARE ALSO ENDEAVOURING TO ESTABLISH A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMITMENTS ARISING FROM THE LETTERS WHICH WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN DR KRENZLER, EEC'S CHIEF TEXTILES NEGOTIATOR AND ME IN GENEVA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MFA NEGOTIATIONS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.+

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE TALKS NOR WOULD HE COMMENT ON WHETHER THE EEC WAS MAINTAINING THE SEVERE LINE WHICH IT HAD INDICATED IT WOULD NEED TO TAKE WITH HONG KONG. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT NONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES SUCH AS BASE LEVELS, GROWTH RATES AND FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS, SURGE AND CIRCUMVENTION HAVE YET BEEN ADDRESSED.

MR MILLS DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS FRIENDLY AND THAT THE PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE WAS ABOUT AVERAGE FOR A MAJOR NEGOTIATION OF THIS TYPE.

THE TALKS WILL RESUME ON MONDAY (JUNE 7) AFTER THE HONG KONG DELEGATION HAS EXAMINED IN DETAIL THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION PUT FORWARD BY THE COMMUNITY.

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REMINDER ON TYPHOON ARRANGEMENTS

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EMPLOYERS WERE ADVISED TODAY (SUNDAY) TO REACH PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS ON THE APPROACH OF OR DURING A TROPICAL STORM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THE AGREEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE RULES FOR WORK, RELEASE FROM WORK, THE METHOD OF CALCULATING WAGES TO BE PAID UNDER VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

+ALTHOUGH THE LAW DOES NOT LAY DOWN ANY PARTICULAR PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW, IT IS BASICALLY A MATTER OF DECISION BETWEEN EACH EMPLOYER AND HIS EMPLOYEES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE, AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT AND OTHER FACTORS,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONFUSION, OR EVEN DISPUTES, COULD ARISE IF THERE WAS A LACK OF PRIOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AS TO WHAT TO DO DURING A TYPHOON.

HE ADVISED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING TO CONSIDER ON SUCH OCCASIONS WAS THE EMPLOYEES' SAFETY, BOTH AT THE PLACE OF WORK AND DURING THE JOURNEY TO AND FROM HOME.

+FOR EXAMPLE, EMPLOYERS SHOULD SEND THEIR EMPLOYEES HOME WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NUMBER EIGHT OR HIGHER IS HOISTED, OR WHEN PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS ABOUT TO STOP.

+OF COURSE, EMPLOYEES WHO ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL AND EMERGENCY DUTIES DURING A TYPHOON WOULD BE EXCEPTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID EMPLOYERS COULD ALWAYS APPROACH THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE WHEN DRAFTING OR PREPARING AGREEMENTS CONCERNING TYPHOON ARRANGEMENTS.

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PROGRAMME WELL RECEIVED

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FAMILY LIFE ACTIVITIES SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, SAID TODAY.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT A HAPPY FAMILY MUST BE BUILT ON THIS RELATIONSHIP.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF AN EIGHT-DAY +HAPPY FAMILY FOR THE ELDERLY+ PROGRAMME AT SUN TIN WAI ESTATE WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE ESTATE'S SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, AS PART OF A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROJECT.

DR HASE SAID THIS KIND OF SOCIAL PROJECT WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE BUILDING OF A COMMUNITY.

+THE EVENT CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TENANTS TO KNOW BETTER, NOT ONLY THEIR NEIGHBOURS, BUT ALSO THE ENVIRONMENT THEY LIVE IN. AND THIS IS WHERE THE SENSE OF BELONGING BEGINS.+

HE ADDED THAT SOCIAL SPIRIT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WAS VITAL TO THE MAKING OF A PERFECT COMMUNITY.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE PROGRAMME, WHICH FEATURED FILM SHOWS, TALKS AND AN EXHIBITION, HAD BEEN WELL ATTENDED BY PEOPLE OF ALL AGE.

MORE THAN 3 000 ESTATE RESIDENTS ALSO ATTENDED A FUN-FAIR WHICH FOLLOWED THE CLOSING CEREMONY TODAY.

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RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY, 1982
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE MONTHLY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1982.

THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE ENTIRE RETAIL SECTOR IN FEBRUARY WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$3 466 MILLION. THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR THE MONTH, AT 102, WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR FEBRUARY 1981, BUT DECLINED BY 32 POINTS OR 24 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT FOR JANUARY 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1982 WAS 87, BEING 10 POINTS OR 10 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR THE SAME MONTH IN 1981 AND 28 POINTS OR 24 PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1982, DECREASES IN THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WERE RECORDED FOR ALL MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES, EXCEPT FOR MOTOR VEHICLES WHERE THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE OF THREE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR ONE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DECLINE (DOWN BY 65 POINTS OR 45 PER CENT) FOLLOWED BY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS (BY 63 POINTS OR 44 PER CENT) AND SUPERMARKETS (BY 65 POINTS OR 41 PER CENT).

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1981, A GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WAS REGISTERED FOR FUELS AND CONSUMER DURABLES WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES UP BY 16 POINTS OR 18 PER CENT, AND TWO POINTS OR TWO PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO STOOD AT 75 AND THAT FOR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS STOOD AT 81, EACH BEING 25 PER CENT LESS THAN THAT IN FEBRUARY 1981. THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR SUPERMARKETS ALSO RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE (DOWN BY 23 POINTS OR 20 PER CENT).

THE FALL IN RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY 1982 WAS DUE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR IN LATE JANUARY, AS PEOPLE TENDED TO BUY LESS AFTER A MAJOR FESTIVAL.

TABLES 1 AND 2 (WHICH ARE SENT SEPARATELY BY FACSIMILE) AND THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS IN FEBRUARY 1982, WITH THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 AS 100. A COMPARISON OF THE FEBRUARY RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1981 IS ALSO SHOWN.

A REPORT DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND, METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS OF THE SURVEY IN 1981 AND JANUARY 1982 HAS ALSO BEEN PUBLISHED.

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FOR FACTORY WORKERS

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO HONG KONG NOWADAYS BECAUSE OF THE RISING CONCERN FOR FAMILY DISORGANISATION, ACCORDING TO THE KWAI CHUNG TOWN OFFICER (NORTH), MR LAM YIU-TONG.

HE SAID MOST HONG KONG PEOPLE TENDED TO BE +WORKAHOLICS,+ SOMETIMES AT THE EXPENSE OF HEALTHY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

MR LAM WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A FAMILY DAY CARNIVAL AT THE CNEC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IN KWAI CHUNG WHICH WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S INDUSTRIAL SUB-COMMITTEE, THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES LIMITED TO PROMOTE FAMILY LIFE FOR FACTORY WORKERS.

THE CARNIVAL, FORMING PART OF A UNITED NATIONS-FUNDED PROGRAMME ON +POPULATION AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION+, FEATURED FIVE HOURS OF VARIETY PERFORMANCES, GAMES STALLS, FILM SHOWS, TELE-MATCH, EXHIBITION AND A LUCKY DRAW.

+PERHAPS IT IS HIGH TIME WE CONSIDERED IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR FAMILY LIFE THROUGH THE VARIOUS WAYS WE LEARNED TODAY,+ MR LAM SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TSUEN WAN WAS HIGHLY INDUSTRIALISED WITH 55 PER CENT OF THE WORKING POPULATION IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND A HIGH +LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE+ OF 69 PER CENT.

+WE ARE PROUD OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS AND BECAUSE WE HAVE A LARGE POPULATION WORKING IN INDUSTRIES, WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPERITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES AND THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE WORKING IN THEM.+

HE HOPED THAT SIMILAR FUNCTIONS FOR WORKERS WOULD BE HELD MORE FREQUENTLY, WITH MORE INDUSTRIALISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE FUTURE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CARNIVAL OPENING WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CMA, ILO, FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

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TAI WAI MARKET STALLS FOR AUCTION

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THIRTEEN STALLS AT THE TAI WAI TEMPORARY MARKET IN SHA TIN WILL BE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC AUCTION ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 9).

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 10 AM AT THE LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL IN LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN.

THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL FOR THE STALLS - NINE FOR SELLING WET GOODS AND FOUR FOR SELLING DRY GOODS - IS \$500 EACH.

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

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SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS CAN START BUSINESS ON JULY 1 FOR A CONTRACT PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE RENT ON QUARTERLY BASIS.

ONLY PERSONS AGED 21 OR ABOVE ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN THE AUCTION AND POTENTIAL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE AUCTION VENUE.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF THE SHA TIN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-623467.

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CHEUNG CHAU SPORTS GROUND OPENS ON FRIDAY

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOUNG PEOPLE ON ISLAND CHEUNG CHAU WILL HAVE THEIR OWN SPORTING AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES FOR MINI-SOCCER MATCHES, AND TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS.

THE CHEUNG CHAU SPORTS GROUND, MANAGED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TO THE ISLANDERS ON FRIDAY (JUNE 11).

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEWLY-BUILT RECREATION FACILITIES.

THE SPORTS GROUND, BUILT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION, ON A 1.2-HECTARE SITE AT THE PEAK OF THE ISLAND, CONSISTS OF A MINI-SOCCER PITCH, A 5-LANE 250 METRE ALL-WEATHER RUNNING TRACK, A SHOT PUT BASE, TWO RUNWAYS AND SAND PITS FOR LONG JUMP, TRIPLE JUMP AND POLE VAULT.

A CONCRETE SPECTATOR STAND, ONE HARD-SURFACED PITCH FOR BASKETBALL OR VOLLEY BALL, AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WITH A SEESAW, SLIDE AND MERRY-GO-ROUND ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE FIRST AID ROOM, OFFICE, STORE-ROOM, PUBLIC TOILETS AND CHANGING ROOMS WITH LOCKERS. FLOOD-LIGHTING FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED.

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RSS GROOMS UP AN ARTIST

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A YOUNG MAN WHOSE CHILDHOOD AMBITION WAS TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DANCER HAS HAD HIS DREAM COME TRUE - THANKS TO THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH ITS OPERATIONAL WING, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS), HELPED CATAPULT THE YOUTH TO SUCCESS AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF TRAINING.

TODAY, AT 25, PLATO LAW IS ENJOYING HIS CAREER AS A DANCER, A FASHION MODEL AS WELL AS A TEACHER OF MODERN DANCE WITH THE RSS.

AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL AND A COUPLE OF YEARS AS AN APPRENTICE IN A FACTORY, PLATO LAW REALISED THAT THE CAREER HE WAS PURSUING WAS NOT TO HIS LIKING. HE WANTED TO DANCE.

HE JOINED A DANCING COURSE ORGANISED BY THE RSS IN 1978. FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS OF PRACTICE AND TRAINING, PLATO HAS NOW BECOME A CERTIFIED TEACHER IN MODERN DANCE.

UNDETERRED BY HARSH EXERCISES, PLATO JOINED AS MANY COURSES AS POSSIBLE. THESE INCLUDE MODERN DANCE, JAZZ, TAP DANCE AND BALLET.

HE GAVE UP HIS JOB IN AN ALUMINIUM FACTORY AND TOOK UP THREE TRAINING COURSES EACH DAY. LATER, HE SIGNED A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH A LOCAL TELEVISION STATION.

DRIVEN BY A DESIRE TO SEEK WIDER KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, HE RESIGNED FROM THE T.V. STATION AND WENT TO LONDON WHERE HE UNDERTOOK SEVERAL DANCING COURSES LASTING UP TO SIX MONTHS.

ALREADY AN ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONAL DANCER, PLATO DOES NOT FORGET HIS DAYS WITH THE RSS.

+I HAVE BEEN THE PART-TIME TRAINER OF ROCK JAZZ IN THE RSS FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STOPPING. THIS IS NOT MEANT TO BE A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE, BUT IN FACT, A DEEP SENSE OF ATTACHMENT TO IT,+ HE SAID.

+THE TRAINING COURSES IT OFFERS ARE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DANCING SCENE OF HONG KONG. IT DOES NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE PERFORMERS BUT ALSO TRAINS UP THE NECESSARY AUDIENCE WHO KNOW HOW TO APPRECIATE DANCE, WHO CAN COMPREHEND THE FEELINGS OF THE DANCERS IN MOVEMENTS.

+THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AS FAR AS PROMOTING DANCE IS CONCERNED,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS PRESENT CAREER, PLATO SAID HE STILL HAD A LONG WAY TO GO AS HIS ULTIMATE GOAL WAS TO BECOME A CHOREOGRAPHER.