



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1980

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1980

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GOVERNMENT MEETS WITH RESIDENTS
OF TSUEN WAN BUILDINGS TO BE RESUMED
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STAFF OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE ARE MEETING RESIDENTS OF TWO BLOCKS OF FLATS WHICH GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME TO MAKE WAY FOR VITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE NEW TOWN.

THEY HAVE BEEN MEETING OWNERS IN SMALL GROUPS TO GIVE THEM DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION AND REHOUSING PLANS.

A LEAFLET HAS ALSO BEEN PRODUCED OUTLINING THE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE TWO TENEMENT BLOCKS ARE ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND LIE DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE TAI HO ROAD EXTENSION. THEY HOUSE ABOUT 2 000 PEOPLE.

THEY ALSO CONTAIN A NUMBER OF SHOPS AND WORKSHOPS ON THE GROUND FLOORS, AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES.

THE DATE OF REVERSION IS FEBRUARY.

THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMPENSATION PACKAGE INCLUDES PAYMENT OF THE OPEN MARKET VALUE OF PREMISES TO EACH OWNER, PLUS A NUMBER OF ALLOWANCES AND OFFERS OF ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF OWNERS AND TENANTS.

ALL OWNERS OF DOMESTIC PREMISES WILL BE OFFERED, IN ADDITION TO THE OPEN MARKET VALUE OF THEIR PREMISES, A HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE TO ENABLE THEM TO BUY A FLAT OF SIMILAR SIZE IN TSUEN WAN, PLUS OTHER ALLOWANCES DESIGNED TO COVER THE COST OF THE MOVE.

ELIGIBLE DOMESTIC TENANTS WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING AND A REMOVAL ALLOWANCE. TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA ACCOMMODATION AND A REMOVAL ALLOWANCE WILL BE OFFERED TO OCCUPANTS OF ILLEGAL EXTENSIONS OR ROOFTOPS.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATORS ON THE GROUND FLOOR WILL RECEIVE STATUTORY COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES AND EXPENSES ARISING FROM THE RESUMPTION, WHILE WORKSHOPS CARRYING ON ADMISSIBLE TRADES MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT FLATTED FACTORY UNITS.

OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL PREMISES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION COVERING LOSSES AND EXPENSES RESULTING FROM THE RESUMPTION.

THE ACTING TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER TSUEN WAN, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THE TWO BLOCKS CONTAINED ABOUT 180 PREMISES.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO RESUMPTION, BUT GOVERNMENT HAD COME UP WITH A PACKAGE TO DEAL WITH THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS WHICH WAS FAIR AND REASONABLE.

HE SAID COMPENSATION, FACTORY REPROVISIONING AND DOMESTIC REHOUSING WOULD BE BASED ON +VERY CAREFUL SURVEYS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OFFICE.+

WITH THE GROWTH OF TRAFFIC IN THE EXPANDING NEW TOWN OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD SYSTEM WERE +ABSOLUTELY VITAL+ UNLESS THERE WAS TO BE TOTAL CHAOS.

/+WE WOULD

+WE WOULD NATURALLY HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE HAD TO RESUME, AND UNDERTOOK STUDIES TO SEE WHETHER WE COULD AVOID THIS BY RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE ROAD, BUT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.+

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL START REGISTERING TENANTS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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\$150 MILLION FOR NT LIBRARY PLAN
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A \$150 MILLION EXPANSION PROGRAMME OVER TEN YEARS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR DARWIN CHEN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE KOWLOON ZONTA CLUB, MR CHEN SAID THE PROGRAMME WILL CALL FOR THE PROVISION OF ABOUT 2.1 MILLION BOOKS, AS WELL AS AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL, SEVEN DISTRICT LIBRARIES, A CENTRAL LIBRARY IN TSUEN WAN FOR THE WHOLE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MAJOR BRANCH LIBRARIES IN SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN NEW TOWNS, SMALL LIBRARIES FOR SAI KUNG AND CHEUNG CHAU AND MINI LIBRARIES FOR TAI O, MUI WO, PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS PROGRAMME BE ACHIEVED BY PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OVER 10 YEARS FROM 1981,+ SAID MR CHEN.

+BY 1991, HONG KONG WILL HAVE SOME 40 LIBRARIES, LARGE AND SMALL, STATIC AND MOBILE, PROVIDING BOOKS AS WELL AS AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS, SERVING THE COMMUNITIES IN BOTH THE URBAN AREAS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+I'M SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT OUR LIBRARY PROGRAMME, IN BOTH SCOPE AND PACE, IS SECOND TO NONE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND THAT HONG KONG CAN RIGHTLY BE PROUD OF ITS PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES,+ MR CHEN ADDED.

MR CHEN ALSO TOUCHED ON THE URBAN COUNCIL LIBRARIES WITH THE FIRST BEING THE CITY HALL LIBRARY.

+IT COMMENCED SERVICE ON A VERY SMALL SCALE WITH A BOOKSTOCK OF LESS THAN 19 000 VOLUMES. THE OPENING OF THE CITY HALL LIBRARY FULFILLED A GOVERNMENT PROMISE MADE SOME 30 YEARS EARLIER TO PROVIDE EVENTUALLY FOR FACILITIES WHICH HAD BEEN AVAILABLE AT THE OLD CITY HALL, WHICH WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1932.

+HOWEVER, DESPITE THE LAPSE OF 30 YEARS, IN MAKING THIS PROVISION THE GOVERNMENT WAS AHEAD RATHER THAN BEHIND PUBLIC OPINION OF THE TIME, FOR WHEN PLANNING COMMENCED ON THE CITY HALL COMPLEX THERE WAS MUCH PROGNOSTICATION TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH FACILITIES WERE A WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY, WOULD NOT BE USED, AND THAT THE WHOLE COMPLEX WOULD BECOME ONE BIG 'WHITE ELEPHANT'.

/+SUBSEQUENT

+SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WERE TO PROVE JUST HOW WRONG THESE CRITICISMS WERE, NOT ONLY FOR THE LIBRARY BUT FOR ALL THE FACILITIES OF THE CITY HALL,+ MR CHEN SAID.

MR CHEN ALSO SAID THAT IN APRIL 1973, THE URBAN COUNCIL ACHIEVED FINANCIAL AUTONOMY AND EIGHT MONTHS LATER, THE THEN LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL PUT FORWARD A 10-YEAR LIBRARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME WHICH CALLED FOR THE SETTING UP, INITIALLY, OF ONE BRANCH LIBRARY IN EACH OF THE TEN URBAN DISTRICTS, AND AT A LATER STAGE, A BRANCH LIBRARY OF 1 000 TO 1 400 SQUARE METRES FOR EVERY 200 000 PEOPLE.

+TODAY, LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS LATER, THE URBAN COUNCIL OPERATES 11 DISTRICT LIBRARIES, TWO MOBILE LIBRARIES, THREE RECORD LISTENING LIBRARIES AND A VIDEO LIBRARY, AND TWO MORE DISTRICT LIBRARIES AT NORTH POINT AND KOWLOON BAY ARE UNDER ACTIVE PREPARATION.

+THESE LIBRARIES HAVE A COMBINED STOCK OF OVER ONE MILLION BOOKS AND 16 000 AUDIO-VISUAL ITEMS AND SUBSCRIBE TO ALMOST 2 400 NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS. THEY HAVE A REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 824 000 AND LAST YEAR THEY ISSUED 3.8 MILLION BOOKS FOR HOME READING, WHILST A FURTHER 3.9 MILLION BOOKS WERE CONSULTED IN THE LIBRARIES, INCLUDING THE REFERENCE LIBRARIES, WHICH DEALT WITH 51 000 ENQUIRIES,+ MR CHEN SAID.

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YOUNG FABIANS VISIT NEW TERRITORIES

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A PARTY OF YOUNG FABIANS LED BY FORMER MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BARONESS WHITE, SPENT TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

THE EIGHT-MEMBER GROUP, WHICH IS SPENDING A FEW DAYS IN HONG KONG BEFORE GOING TO CHINA, VISITED SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR JOSEPH WONG.

AT SHUI WO COURT, THE MASSIVE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME DEVELOPMENT NEARING COMPLETION IN SHA TIN, DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, BRIEFED THEM ON NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS.

THE NEXT STOP WAS AT LEK YUEN ESTATE WHERE THEY WERE MET BY ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR BERNARD WILLIAMS, AND OTHER SENIOR HOUSING DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. THEY VISITED A SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR THE HANDICAPPED RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

AT WO CHE ESTATE THE GROUP VISITED A KINDERGARTEN, A SALVATION ARMY HOSTEL, A SCHOOL RUN BY THE HONG KONG SPASTICS ASSOCIATION AND THE ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

/AFTER LUNCH

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AFTER LUNCH AT ISLAND HOUSE WITH SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES AND MRS AKERS-JONES, THE PARTY TOURED THE NEW TERRITORIES INCLUDING TAI PO, PLOVER COVE, THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION ESTATE AT TAI PO, THE LUK KENG COUNTRY PARK AREA, THE SHA TAU KOK ROAD, FANLING NEW TOWN AREA, SHEK KONG VALLEY, ROUTE TWSK AND TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MRS SHELLEY LAU.

YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) THE GROUP MET THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, URBAN COUNCILLOR, MRS ELSIE ELLIOTT, AND OTHER URBAN COUNCIL MEMBERS. THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR E.P. HO AND HAD A MEETING WITH WORKER MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

TOMORROW (FRIDAY) THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG BY PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE, MR A.G.T. WANE, AND WILL SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

THEY LEAVE FOR CHINA ON SATURDAY.

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ACTING COMMISSIONER VISITS MUSIC CAMP
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THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE FIRST HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE WHERE HE ENQUIRED ABOUT THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG MUSICIANS THERE.

HE ALSO SAW THE MUSICIANS PROVIDE LIVE MUSIC FOR A SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING DEMONSTRATION.

HE SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STAFF AND CAMPERS, AND THAT HE HAD GOOD REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT THE CAMP WAS DOING A LOT OF GOOD FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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APPRENTICESHIPS OFFERED IN TEN MAJOR INDUSTRIES

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MORE THAN 1 400 YOUNG PEOPLE FOUND A NEW CRAFT OR TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TRAINING COUNCIL DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

AND THERE ARE STILL OPPORTUNITIES OPEN IN TEN MAJOR INDUSTRIES FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE DIVISION OPERATED AN APPRENTICE PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WISHING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN INDUSTRY.

+THESE 1 400 APPRENTICES ARE NOW USEFULLY AND PRODUCTIVELY EMPLOYED, EARNING THEIR LIVING AND AT THE SAME TIME LEARNING A TRADE IN WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED,+ HE SAID.

THE DURATION OF APPRENTICESHIP WAS NORMALLY FOUR YEARS.

+IN ADDITION TO RECEIVING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROVIDED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, APPRENTICES ALSO ATTEND RELATED TECHNICAL COURSES THREE TIMES A WEEK - ONE DAY AND TWO EVENINGS - EITHER IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THERE WERE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO SUITABLY QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE FOR BOTH CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP IN HONG KONG'S TEN MAJOR INDUSTRIES - AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS AND SERVICING, BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING, CLOTHING, ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONICS, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, PLASTICS, PRINTING, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP REPAIRS, AND TEXTILES.

THE ENTRY REQUIREMENT FOR CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP IS COMPLETION OF FORM 3 WHILE FOR TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP IT IS COMPLETION OF FORM 5 WITH PASSES IN FOUR RELEVANT SUBJECTS IN THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

ON COMPLETION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP, THE APPRENTICES WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF APPRENTICESHIP BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR CERTIFYING THEIR COMPETENCY IN THE TRADE OR OCCUPATION THEY HAVE CHOSEN.

ANY SUITABLY QUALIFIED YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN BEING TRAINED THROUGH AN APPRENTICESHIP MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE DIVISION, 12TH FLOOR, ASIAN HOUSE, 1 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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TRAVEL SUBSIDY FOR STUDENTS

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BUS AND TRAM TRAVEL SUBSIDIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO SOME 500 000 SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 12 WHEN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTS NEXT MONTH, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE TRAVEL SUBSIDY SCHEME WILL BE OPERATIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 16 AND STUDENTS WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF REDUCED FARES FOR TRAVELLING BETWEEN THEIR HOMES AND SCHOOLS SHOULD APPLY FOR PASSES THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CIRCULARS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL SCHOOLS INFORMING THEM OF THE SCHEME WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION ON HOW THEY SHOULD APPLY TO THE BUS AND TRAM COMPANIES FOR PASSES.

+SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED TO TAKE EARLY ACTION ON APPLICATIONS BUT, PRINCIPALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE DISCRETION ON THE DATE FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM STUDENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NTDD OFFICE MOVES TO TUEN MUN

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THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE FROM ITS NEW OFFICE FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 18).

THE NEW OFFICE WILL OCCUPY THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF 13 TAT YAN SQUARE, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE MAIN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE NUMBER FOR THE OFFICE IS 12-812501 AND THE EXTENSION FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES IS 20.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE SAID TODAY THAT THE MOVE FROM TSUEN WAN TO TUEN MUN WOULD ENABLE THE OFFICE TO DEAL WITH THE WORKS IN HAND AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN MORE EFFICIENTLY.

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