



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1974

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**OI MAN ESTATE FLATS IN GREAT DEMAND  
TWO BLOCKS NOW FULLY OCCUPIED**

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ALL 1,242 FLATS AT WAI MAN HOUSE AND CHUNG MAN HOUSE IN OI MAN ESTATE ARE NOW FULLY OCCUPIED.

THESE TWO BLOCKS HOUSE ABOUT 8,300 PEOPLE ALL OF WHOM ARE FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAITING LIST. ANYONE ELIGIBLE CAN APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST.

ANOTHER FOUR BLOCKS WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPATION BETWEEN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AND JANUARY 1975. THEY WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF 1,990 FLATS.

PROSPECTIVE TENANTS FOR THE FOUR BLOCKS HAVE ALL BEEN SCREENED AND LETTERS OF OFFER WILL BE MAILED TO THEM AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

ONE BLOCK OF SEVEN STOREYS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF TWO-BEDROOM FLATS TOTALLING 76 FOR FAMILIES OF TEN OR MORE. IT IS A NEW CONCEPT IN ESTATE DESIGN BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MANY OVERSEAS VISITORS WHO HAVE SEEN THESE FLATS HAVE BEEN FAVOURABLY IMPRESSED.

EACH FLAT HAS A NET LIVING AREA OF ABOUT 590 SQUARE FEET, EXCLUDING THE KITCHEN, BALCONY AND TOILET. THE RENT IS \$550 PER MONTH, INCLUSIVE OF RATES AND SERVICE FEES.

MR. SIMON LEE, HOUSING MANAGER, NOTED THAT THE ESTATE WAS CENTRALLY LOCATED AND WELL DESIGNED AND SAID THE FLATS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND.

OI MAN ESTATE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY DEVELOPED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, WILL HAVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 46,000 HOUSED IN 6,236 FLATS OF VARYING SIZES IN 12 DIFFERENT BLOCKS.

THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$147 MILLION AND THE ESTATE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TENANTS WITH ALL THE AMENITIES OF A SMALL TOWN.

ANOTHER FEATURE IN THE ESTATE IS A THREE-STOREY COMMERCIAL CENTRE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TENANTS AND NEARBY RESIDENTS.

THE CENTRE, IDEALLY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE BUS TERMINAL WITHIN THE ESTATE, WILL HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPS, TWO BANKS, A DEPARTMENT STORE, TWO RESTAURANTS AND A CAFE.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING PART OF THE MARKET FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS, ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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NEW PICNIC SIGNS IN RECREATION AREAS

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TWO NEW SYMBOLIC SIGNS ARE BEING INTRODUCED TO INDICATE THE TWO TYPES OF PICNIC SPOTS IN RURAL RECREATION AREAS MANAGED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE SIGNS IDENTIFY 'APPROVED BARBECUE PLACES' WHERE BARBECUES MAY BE HELD ON THE GRILLS PROVIDED, AND '+PICNIC PLACES' WITHOUT GRILLS WHERE BARBECUES ARE PROHIBITED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE NEW SIGNS ARE PART OF A PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO FIRE HAZARDS, AND TO THE PROPER USE OF THEIR COUNTRYSIDE.

+WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FIRE DAMAGE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. LAST FIRE SEASON THERE WAS A RECORD TOTAL OF OVER 1,000 HILL FIRES, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT VERY MANY WERE THE RESULT OF PICNICKERS' CARELESSNESS+.

THE NEW '+PICNIC PLACE+' SIGNS DEPICT PICNICKERS ENJOYING THEIR MEALS AT A PICNIC TABLE AND BENCHES, COMPRISE BLACK FIGURES ON A WHITE BACKGROUND. USING THE SAME COLOUR SCHEME, THE '+APPROVED BARBECUE PLACE+' SIGNS PICTURE A BARBECUE PIT AND FORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE NEW SIGNS ARE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE MAPS ISSUED BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+WITH THE USE OF THE NEW SYMBOLS, PICNICKERS WILL KNOW WHAT SORT OF FACILITIES TO EXPECT WHEN THEY GO ON AN OUTING AND WILL AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT OF BRINGING CHARCOAL AND BARBECUE FORKS TO PICNIC PLACES WHERE BARBECUES ARE NOT PERMITTED+. HE SAID.

BARBECUE PITS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AT ALL THE '+APPROVED BARBECUE PLACES+' TO DISCOURAGE PICNICKERS FROM BUILDING THEIR OWN PITS WHICH OFTEN MAY PROVE TO BE A FIRE HAZARD. SOME OF THE POPULAR SPOTS ARE LOCATED IN THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, AT BRIDE'S POOL, ABERDEEN RESERVOIRS AND TAI TAM RESERVOIRS, WHERE NEARLY 250 BARBECUE PITS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED SINCE OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE OVER 80 AFD RECREATION AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE OF HONG KONG AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THEY ARE PROVING INCREASINGLY POPULAR. THE DEPARTMENT IS DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL RECREATION AREAS ON LANTAO ISLAND, AT SHEK KONG, SAI KUNG AND LION ROCK.

NOTE TO EDITORS: PICTURES OF THE NEW SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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DIPHTHERIA UNDER CONTROL IN HONG KONG  
PARENTS URGED TO HELP KEEP RECORD CLEAN  
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DIPHTHERIA IS NO LONGER A FRIGHTFUL WORD IN HONG KONG — IN CONTRAST TO YEARS AGO WHEN THE DISEASE WAS PREVALENT BEFORE AND JUST AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHEN MORTALITY WAS HIGH AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 10.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 'SILENT' TRIUMPHS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH ABOUT WHICH LITTLE IS KNOWN.

ALSO RESPONSIBLE ARE PARENTS WHO SUPPORTED THE DEPARTMENT IN ALL ITS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE NEED FOR IMMUNISATION, AND WHOSE CO-OPERATION REMAINS ESSENTIAL IF THE RECORD IS TO REMAIN CLEAN. THIS YEAR'S ANTI-DIPHTHERIA CAMPAIGN IS NOW UNDERWAY.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF DEATHS RECORDED WAS 214 IN 1936. THE MOST SERIOUS EPIDEMIC OCCURRED IN 1959 WITH 2,087 CASES.

THE MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES AFTER THE WAR WAS DUE MAINLY TO THE LARGE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS WHICH MADE THE ENVIRONMENT MORE SUITABLE FOR THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE. A PREFERENCE FOR CHINESE HERBAL TREATMENT CAUSED DELAY IN ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL, AND CONSEQUENTLY A HIGHER FATALITY RATE THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE OCCURRED.

+FREE IMMUNISATION HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN GOVERNMENT HEALTH CENTRES, CLINICS AND HOSPITALS AS EARLY AS 1946,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY. +ANTI-DIPHTHERIA CAMPAIGNS WERE HELD YEARLY TO PROTECT VULNERABLE AGE GROUPS. THESE CAMPAIGNS WERE INTENSIFIED IN THE LATE 1950S AND EARLY SIXTIES.+

FIXED CENTRES AND MOBILE TEAMS WERE SET UP THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO MAKE ANTI-DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION READILY AVAILABLE.

DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS WERE CARRIED OUT IN CROWDED TENEMENT BLOCKS, HOUSING ESTATES, AND SQUATTER AREAS BY INOCULATORS AND HEALTH VISITORS TO ENSURE THAT INFANTS AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WERE IMMUNISED.

SPECIAL TEAMS OF HEALTH STAFF WERE SENT TO ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS. TOYS AND SWEETS WERE GIVEN AS INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF INOCULATION AMONG CHILDREN. TO DATE, MORE THAN 12 MILLION DOSES OF ANTI-DIPHTHERIA VACCINE HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO TAKEN ENERGETIC MEASURES IN THE ISOLATION AND TREATMENT OF CASES, CONTROL AND TRACING OF CONTACTS, AND DETECTION OF CARRIERS.

/HEALTH EDUCATION.....

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HEALTH EDUCATION ALSO FORMED AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE METHOD OF CONTROL. PARENTS WERE TOLD OF THE DANGER OF THE DISEASE, THE ADVANTAGES OF IMMUNISATION, AND THE WISDOM OF SEEKING EARLY PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION. INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TV, AND THERE WAS A CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND FILMS. LECTURES WERE ALSO GIVEN FROM TIME TO TIME.

AFTER YEARS OF CONCERTED EFFORT ON THIS SCALE, THE INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA DEATHS BEGAN TO SHOW A STEADY DECLINE.

+THE DISEASE HAS NOW VIRTUALLY CEASED TO POSE A THREAT TO HONG KONG, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +AND ONLY ONE CASE WAS REPORTED IN 1973. THERE HAS BEEN NO DEATH SINCE 1972.

+THE SUCCESSFUL NEAR-ERADICATION OF DIPHTHERIA IN HONG KONG DEMONSTRATES THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF ANTI-EPIDEMIC MEASURES IN DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

+THE FINANCE AND OTHER NON-QUANTIFIABLE COSTS INVOLVED DURING THIS PERIOD ARE ENORMOUS. YET, COMPARED WITH THE BENEFITS REAPED IN THE SAVING OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES, REDUCED SUFFERING TO THOUSANDS, AND THE ACTUAL SAVING IN THE MEDICAL CARE OF WOULD-BE PATIENTS, THE COSTS ARE INSIGNIFICANT AND THE EFFORT WORTHWHILE.

+YET DESPITE THE CONTAINMENT OF DIPHTHERIA THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY, OR A RELAXATION OF THE CONTINUOUS CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THIS DISEASE. +

THE SPOKESMAN APPEALED TO PARENTS FULLY TO UTILISE THE DEPARTMENT'S FACILITIES TO GET THEIR CHILDREN PROTECTED, ESPECIALLY DURING THE ANNUAL ANTI-DIPHTHERIA CAMPAIGN WHICH IS NOW ON.

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