



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1982

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QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE:

+FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, AS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE YEAR THAT HAS PASSED SINCE MY LAST COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE. ALL COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND MANY PEOPLES HAVE SUFFERED HARDSHIP AND STRIFE. ON THE CREDIT SIDE, MODERN COMMUNICATIONS HAVE GIVEN US UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEEDS AND SUFFERINGS OF OUR FELLOW MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE, SHOULD COME GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND A GROWING DETERMINATION TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS TOGETHER.

+ONE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION WHICH EMBODIES THAT DETERMINATION IS THE COMMONWEALTH, OF WHICH I HAVE BEEN HEAD FOR 30 YEARS. I HAVE SEEN IT GROW AND CHANGE ENORMOUSLY IN THAT TIME. I HAVE MET AND TALKED NOT ONLY WITH THE LEADERS OF ALMOST ALL THE 46 MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT WITH MANY OF THEIR PEOPLE AS WELL. I AM A PROFOUND BELIEVER IN ITS INFLUENCE FOR GOOD AND IN THE WAYS IN WHICH IT WORKS.

+NO OTHER ORGANISATION IN THE WORLD REGULARLY BRINGS TOGETHER SO MANY POLITICAL LEADERS, PUBLIC SERVANTS AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN SUCH AN INFORMAL AND BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE. ITS FIRST CONCERN, MOST RECENTLY SPELT OUT IN THE MELBOURNE DECLARATION OF 1981, IS TO FURTHER IN PRACTICAL WAYS THE DESIRE WHICH ALL OUR DIFFERENT PEOPLES SHARE FOR FULL AND SATISFYING LIVES, FREE FROM POVERTY.

+I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF US WHO SHARE IN OUR UNIQUE COMMONWEALTH PARTNERSHIP, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE STILL YOUNG AND THOSE WHO INFLUENCE THE YOUNG, OUGHT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG - WHO AND WHERE OUR 1 000 MILLION FELLOW MEMBERS ARE, WHAT ARE THEIR PROBLEMS AND WHAT ARE THEIR HOPES. EVERY ONE OF US SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO HELP MAKE THOSE HOPES A REALITY.

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8TH REPORT OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD

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DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY AND THE VIEWING PUBLIC WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED THIS YEAR WITH THE CREATION OF A NUMBER OF PUBLIC VIEWING PANELS.

THIS IS OUTLINED IN THE 8TH REPORT OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD WHICH WILL BE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10).

THE REPORT, WHICH COVERS THE PERIOD JANUARY 1980 TO JUNE 1981, NOTES THAT TELEVISION VIEWING IS HONG KONG'S MOST POPULAR LEISURE ACTIVITY AND RECOGNISES THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE EXERTED BY TELEVISION ON THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG.

/THERE IS .....

THERE IS THEREFORE A HEAVY ONUS ON THE STATIONS TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS WHICH THAT RESPONSIBILITY PLACES ON THEM, IT SAYS.

THE BOARD'S GENERAL VIEW IS THAT PROGRAMME STANDARDS ARE IMPROVING. BUT IT EMPHASISES THAT BOTH THE BOARD AND THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY CONTINUE TO PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE THEMES OF THE TELEVISION DRAMAS WHICH HAVE NOW PROVED SO POPULAR.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CONTINUE TO EXPRESS CONCERN FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT TELEVISION STANDARDS AND IN PARTICULAR THE POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN PROGRAMME CONTENT AND JUVENILE CRIME.

IT SAYS THAT IN A SURVEY OF CHINESE VIEWERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS TELEVISION, COMMISSIONED BY THE AUTHORITY IN JANUARY 1980, THOSE SURVEYED FOUND THE QUALITY OF LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMMES OF HIGH CALIBRE.

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED THAT MOST VIEWERS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT CONTROL BOTH OF PROGRAMME CONTENT AND TELEVISION ADVERTISING STANDARDS.

REFERRING TO STEPS TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE THE LICENCEES TO EXERT MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES AND TO IMPROVE THEIR PROGRAMME SCHEDULING POLICY, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE REQUIREMENTS LAID UPON THE STATIONS IN THESE TWO AREAS HAD BEEN LARGELY MET.

BOTH STATIONS, IT SAYS, HAVE INTRODUCED INTERNAL MONITORING PREVIEW SYSTEMS TO PREVENT CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE CODES OF PRACTICE.

IN ADDITION, GUIDELINES HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY EACH STATION TO THEIR PRODUCTION STAFF RESTATING THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TERMS OF THEIR LICENCES AND THE CODES OF PRACTICE.

ALTHOUGH THE AUTHORITY WAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS REQUIRED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE STATIONS TO BREACHES OF PROGRAMME STANDARDS DURING THE PERIOD, IN GENERAL THEIR OVERALL PERFORMANCE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE SATISFACTORY.

IN PARTICULAR THE LICENCEES OBSERVED THE FAMILY VIEWING REQUIREMENTS WHICH PROHIBIT THE SHOWING OF PROGRAMMES POSITIVELY UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4 PM AND 8.30 PM.

MOREOVER, BOTH STATIONS MET THE NEW PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER, BROADCASTING MORE EDUCATIONAL AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS A GREATER NUMBER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES WHICH THEY PRODUCED.

THE BOARD EXPRESSES UNEASE, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE SCHEDULING OF MOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES AT WEEKENDS, RESULTING LARGELY FROM THE STATIONS' PRACTICE OF BROADCASTING SERIAL DRAMAS BETWEEN 7.30 PM AND 9.30 PM.

THE BOARD ALSO REFERS TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE GUIDELINE UNDER WHICH THE STATIONS CAN BE EXEMPTED FROM TRANSMITTING TO SMALLER AREAS OF SCATTERED POPULATION. THE PREVIOUS CRITERIA BY WHICH THE AUTHORITY MIGHT EXEMPT FROM SUCH TRANSMISSION FACILITIES POCKETS OF POPULATION OF LESS THAN 12 000 PEOPLE WITHIN A RADIUS OF THREE KILOMETRES FROM A GIVEN POINT, HAS BEEN REDUCED BY HALF IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COVERAGE IN SOME OF THE SMALL SCATTERED AREAS STILL NOT BEING ADEQUATELY SERVED BY TELEVISION.

DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD, THE LICENCES OF BOTH HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCASTS LTD (HK-TV) AND REDIFFUSION TELEVISION LTD (RTV) WERE RENEWED FOR A FURTHER EIGHT YEARS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1980 UNDER REVISED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

THE REPORT MAKES REFERENCE TO THE APPROVAL GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THREE AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES TO EACH PURCHASE 20.4 PER CENT OF THE EQUITY OF RTV. THE REPORT ALSO REFERS TO THE OVERALL FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INDUSTRY, SAYING THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT REMAINS INAPPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER THE LICENSING OF ANY FURTHER TELEVISION STATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.

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#### MAJOR EFFORT UNDERWAY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME DEALS WITH VERY MUCH MORE THAN JUST CATCHING LITTERBUGS, KEEPING THE HARBOUR FREE OF FLOTSAM AND JETSAM, AND COLLECTING HUGE AMOUNTS OF DAILY HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE.

UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1980, THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN A LONG-TERM AND SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMME TO FIGHT POLLUTION OF THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT.

WORKING ALONGSIDE THE EPA ARE FOUR SPECIAL CONTROL UNITS, EACH LOCATED WITHIN A DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, WHICH ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

#### THE UNITS ARE:

- \* THE POLLUTION CONTROL (LIQUID AND SOLID WASTES) DIVISION IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT;
- \* THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT;
- \* THE AGRICULTURE WASTES UNIT OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT; AND
- \* THE NOISE AND VIBRATION CONTROL UNIT SOON TO BE FORMED UNDER THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE MOST APPARENT WORK OF KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN IS THE DAILY COLLECTION OF SOME 6 500 TONS OF SOLID HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE, MUCH OF WHICH IS REMOVED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. MUCH MORE WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE SMALL ARMY OF PEOPLE WHO IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER RECOVER WASTE-PAPER, CANS, BOTTLES AND OTHER MATERIAL WHICH IS EVENTUALLY EXPORTED FOR RECYCLING.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN 1980, THE AMOUNT OF WASTES EXPORTED FOR RECYCLING CAME TO A STAGGERING \$157 MILLION.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN TEN YEARS' TIME, HONG KONG'S HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE WILL REACH A FIGURE OF MORE THAN 10 000 TONS A DAY. HEAPED-UP, THIS WOULD MAKE A PILE THE SIZE OF THE HOPEWELL CENTRE.

TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS HUGE AMOUNT OF WASTE AND ANY TOXIC OR DANGEROUS WASTES ARE DEALT WITH HYGIENICALLY AND SAFELY AND AT LEAST COST TO THE TAXPAYER, THE GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED, UNDER THE RECENTLY-INTRODUCED WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE, TO PREPARE A STATUTORY WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN. WORK ON THIS PLAN IS UNDERWAY WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MANY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED AND FROM THE CONSULTANTS RECENTLY COMMISSIONED TO DEVELOP A COMPUTER-BASED WASTE DISPOSAL MODEL, BEING GUIDED BY THE EPA.

AGRICULTURAL WASTES, ESPECIALLY PIG WASTE, ARE ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM, AND HAVE FOR MANY YEARS CAUSED WIDESPREAD POLLUTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+MUCH OF THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE PRACTICE OF HOSING OUT WASTES INTO WATER COURSES IN WHICH THERE IS LITTLE RUNNING WATER FOR MOST OF THE YEAR,+ EXPLAINED DR STUART REED, COMMISSIONER FOR THE EPA.

TO CHECK THIS PROBLEM, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY INTRODUCED PILOT COLLECTION SCHEMES IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL FARMERS IN THE LAM TSUEN AND KAU LUNG HANG VALLEYS. THESE EFFORTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE BACKED-UP SOON BY NEW REGULATIONS INTRODUCED UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE WHICH WILL REQUIRE LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO ADOPT CERTAIN PRACTICES AIMED AT FACILITATING COLLECTION OF THE WASTES.

TO DEAL WITH ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, AN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BILL SHOULD SOON BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, REPLACING THE 1959 CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE.

DR REED POINTS OUT THAT WHILE INITIAL PUBLIC CONCERN USUALLY CENTRES ON THE IMMEDIATELY NOTICEABLE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION, SUCH AS THE VISIBLE EMISSIONS OF SMOKE, DUST AND GRIT COVERED IN THE PRESENT ORDINANCE, EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE HAS SHOWN THAT WIDESPREAD PROBLEMS CAN DEVELOP QUICKLY AS A RESULT OF LARGELY INVISIBLE EMISSIONS FROM THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON THE ROADS AND FROM CERTAIN TYPES OF INDUSTRIALISATION. SO THERE IS NEED FOR STRICTER CONTROLS THAN THOSE PROVIDED BY THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO COVER ALL AIR POLLUTION, AND NOT JUST SMOKE, DUST AND GRIT.

+CEMENT AND CHEMICAL FACTORIES AS WELL AS POWER STATIONS ARE ALL POTENTIAL SOURCES OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF MORE HARMFUL GASEOUS POLLUTANTS AND THESE MUST BE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED,+ DR REED SAID.

+WITH THE RECENT SPATE OF SUCH INSTALLATIONS IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE HAD TO ACT BEFORE THE NEW LEGISLATION IS IN FORCE USING SPECIAL LEASE CONDITIONS AS A STOP-GAP MEANS OF ENSURING CONTROL AND PRE-EMPTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

+IN THIS WAY, SATISFACTORY CONTROL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE TWO NEW COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS, FOR SEVERAL NEW CEMENT AND CHEMICAL PLANTS AND FOR ALL THE NEW FACTORIES ON THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE; AND THE CONTROLS COVER ALL TYPES OF POLLUTION, NOT JUST GASEOUS EMISSIONS.+

IN ANOTHER EFFORT TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE, SPOT CHECKS OF MOTOR VEHICLES ARE FREQUENTLY UNDERTAKEN. IN 1980-81, SUCH CHECKS RESULTED IN 14 500 PROSECUTIONS. BUT, DR REED ADMITS, THIS HAS NOT CURED THE PROBLEM AND TOUGHER ACTION IS NEEDED.

WATER POLLUTION IN THE OLD DAYS DID NOT POSE SUCH A PROBLEM, AS MOST PEOPLE LIVED AROUND THE HARBOUR AREA, WHERE THE RAPID FLOW OF WATER HELPED DISPERSE THE POLLUTION.

THE SITUATION HAS NOW CHANGED, WITH THE RAPID INCREASES IN THE POPULATION AROUND TOLO HARBOUR AND, IN THE FUTURE, AROUND DEEP BAY AND JUNK BAY WHERE THE CIRCULATION AND DISPERSION OF ANY POLLUTANTS FED INTO THESE BODIES OF WATER IS POOR.

IN MANY CASES, THE WATER IN THESE AREAS IS ALREADY SATURATED WITH AGRICULTURAL AND ANIMAL WASTES.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN FIGHTING THIS DANGER, WITH THE CONSTRUCTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AND WITH THE STEPS THAT ARE BEING TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE 1980 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE. TOLO HARBOUR IS THE PRIORITY AREA FOR CONTROLS UNDER THIS ORDINANCE AND IT IS HOPED THAT TOLO WILL BE DECLARED THE FIRST WATER CONTROL ZONE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

+IT IS ESSENTIAL IN ALL THIS THAT WE DO NOT UNCRITICALLY INTRODUCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES POLLUTION CONTROLS THAT MAY NOT BE AT ALL RELEVANT TO THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG,+ DR REED SAID.

+TO AVOID THIS AND TO CHECK ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEWLY-INTRODUCED CONTROLS IN MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REQUIREMENTS, THE EPA HAS BUILT UP CENTRALISED FACILITIES FOR MONITORING AND FIELD SURVEY WORK TO ESTABLISH PRESENT LEVELS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POLLUTION AND TO CHECK ON TRENDS.

+MODERN ELECTRO-CHEMICAL, ELECTRO-OPTICAL AND ELECTRONIC AUTOMATIC SENSORS, TOGETHER WITH ON-SITE MAGNETIC TAPE DATA LOGGERS AND A HIGH SPEED COMPUTER, ARE USED BY THE EPA'S SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING SURVEY TEAMS. ALSO SOURCE EMISSION MEASUREMENTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FIELD BY INSPECTORS OF THE VARIOUS POLLUTION CONTROL UNITS IN ORDER TO CHECK COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION.+

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TO DEAL WITH NOISE IN THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, A COMPREHENSIVE NOISE CONTROL UNIT IS BEING PREPARED WITH A VIEW TO ENACTMENT IN 1983.

THIS NOISE CONTROL BILL WILL PROVIDE FOR CONTROL OF NOISE FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES, INDUSTRY, AIR-CONDITIONING PLANTS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE.

DR REED POINTS OUT THAT THE NATURE OF THE TOPOGRAPHY IN MANY PARTS OF THE TERRITORY CAN CAUSE TRAPPING OF POLLUTANTS RELEASED INTO THE AQUATIC OR AERIAL ENVIRONMENT AND THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE VERY HIGH CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE HERE, MEANS THAT WE NEED TO TAKE MORE, RATHER THAN LESS, CARE IN HONG KONG ABOUT CONTROLLING POLLUTION THAN IS NECESSARY IN MOST OTHER PLACES.

+WE NEGLECT THE ENVIRONMENT AT OUR PERIL,+ HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT CHIEF SAID.

+EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS FAR BETTER TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AT AN EARLY STAGE RATHER THAN BEING FORCED INTO HURRIED, AND USUALLY MUCH MORE COSTLY, ACTION BY PRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS BECOME SO SEVERE THAT THEY CANNOT BE IGNORED.+

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SAI KUNG BOAT PEOPLE URGED TO KEEP HARBOUR CLEAN  
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MORE THAN 300 PLASTIC BUCKETS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO THE BOAT PEOPLE IN SAI KUNG HOI TO FACILITATE PROPER REFUSE DISPOSAL ON BOARD THEIR DWELLING JUNKS.

THE BUCKETS, CONTRIBUTED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN, WERE HANDED OVER TO THE BOAT DWELLERS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR WILLIAM WAN DURING A VISIT ON A SAMPAN LAST WEEK.

MR WAN URGED THE BOAT PEOPLE TO KEEP THE HARBOUR CLEAN TO IMPROVE SANITATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

HE REQUESTED THEM TO KEEP THEIR DOMESTIC REFUSE IN THE BUCKETS ON BOARD THEIR JUNKS AND BRING THEM TO THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT SPECIALLY SET UP NEAR THE JETTIES AT SAI KUNG TOWN FOR DISPOSAL.

INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF GARBAGE INTO THE HARBOUR WOULD CAUSE NOT ONLY POLLUTION BUT ALSO HEALTH HAZARDS, HE ADDED.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE VISIT WERE THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MR LAM CHUNG-HUEN- THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MRS LAU NG WAI-LAN- AND THE DEPUTY URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF SAI KUNG, MR CHOI YEUNG-HUNG.

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CIVIL SERVANTS REFINANCING SCHEME WINDS UP  
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CIVIL SERVANTS WILL HAVE UNTIL 5 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 11) TO APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO GET THEMSELVES OUT OF DEBT.

THIS IS WHEN THE REFINANCING SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE WOUND UP AFTER BEING IN OPERATION FOR ONE YEAR.

UNDER THE SCHEME, CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE THEIR DEBTS IN ONE LUMP SUM WITH BANK LOANS. THE LOANS ARE REPAID IN INSTALMENTS DEDUCTED EACH MONTH FROM THE PARTICIPANTS' SALARY.

RUNNING CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SCHEME IS A GRACE PERIOD DURING WHICH TIME CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. THESE RELATE TO PECUNIARY EMBARRASSMENT, INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY, BORROWING MONEY AT INTEREST FROM AN UNAPPROVED SOURCE, ACTING ON BEHALF OF MONEY LENDERS AND USING SUBORDINATES AS GUARANTORS IN ANY LOAN AGREEMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GRACE PERIOD WOULD END ALSO ON MARCH 11 AND CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WERE FOUND TO BE STILL IN BREACH OF THESE REGULATIONS AFTER THAT DATE MAY RENDER THEMSELVES LIABLE TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

THE SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED THAT UP TO LAST THURSDAY (MARCH 4), A TOTAL OF 3 741 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

SOME 2 696 HAD BEEN REFINANCED WHILE THREE WERE REFERRED FOR BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS. A TOTAL OF 47 MILLION HAD BEEN LOANED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CIVIL SERVANTS FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE WOULD REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT ADDRESSES UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE WERE PROCESSED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL FIRST MEETING  
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THE NEWLY APPOINTED VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE MEETING. PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE RECEPTION AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AT 2.15 PM.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1982

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CHANCE FOR TEACHERS TO ATTEND REFRESHER COURSES

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FOUR RETRAINING COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED AT GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE 1982-83 ACADEMIC YEAR.

HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND THESE COURSES, EACH OF WHICH WILL LAST FOR EIGHT WEEKS.

+THE AIM OF THESE COURSES IS TO ACQUAINT SERVING TEACHERS WITH MODERN METHODS AND APPROACHES IN TEACHING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, TO PROMOTE FURTHER UNDERSTANDING IN THE USE OF RESOURCES AND A KNOWLEDGE OF NEW CONCEPTS IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT.

+EMPHASIS WILL BE ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF TEACHING, HELPING TEACHERS TO DEVELOP MODERN METHODS IN PROGRAMMED LEARNING, TEAM TEACHING AND THE ACTIVITY APPROACH,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MAJOR PART OF THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND TUTORIALS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN CLASSROOM SITUATIONS, THE CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN OF TEACHING AIDS, AND VISITS TO VARIOUS TEACHING CENTRES AND SCHOOLS USING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.

TEACHERS NOMINATED FOR THE COURSE MUST HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' TEACHING EXPERIENCE AFTER THEIR INITIAL TRAINING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A REPLACEMENT TEACHER MAY BE EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL TO STAND IN FOR TEACHERS ON RETRAINING COURSES.

THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR THE COURSE. ATTENDANCE WILL NOT CONSTITUTE ANY QUALIFICATION BUT CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE ISSUED TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE COURSE WITH SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE.

NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER (FURTHER), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, THIRD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE MARCH 19.

SCHOOLS WILL BE INFORMED IN EARLY APRIL WHETHER THEIR TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE COURSES.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE COURSES MAY BE MADE TO GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON ON 3-885061 EXT. 231, AND ENQUIRIES REGARDING REPLACEMENT TEACHERS TO THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER CONCERNED.

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DESTRUCTION OF 1981 POPULATION CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES  
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CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES CONTAINING PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF SOME 5 MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE BURNT TO ASHES THIS MORNING AT THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE STAFF OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE QUESTIONNAIRES WERE USED IN THE 1981 POPULATION CENSUS CONDUCTED IN MARCH LAST YEAR TO COLLECT DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE, ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE CENSUS MUST BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND ALL QUESTIONNAIRES CONTAINING SUCH INFORMATION MUST BE DESTROYED WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE CENSUS.

HE STRESSED THAT THROUGHOUT THE CENSUS OPERATION, STEPS WERE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE DATA WAS MAINTAINED.

+NO PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THE PERSONAL DATA. ALL CENSUS OFFICERS ARE UNDER AN OATH OF SECRECY NOT TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION.

+QUESTIONNAIRES FROM THE CENSUS WERE BURNT IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC AND TO DISPEL ANY ANXIETY THEY MAY HAVE OVER THEIR USE,+ HE SAID.

THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THE 1981 CENSUS WERE PROCESSED BY COMPUTER. NO PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION SUCH AS NAME AND ADDRESS IS KEPT BY THE DEPARTMENT. CENSUS RESULTS ARE PUBLISHED IN AGGREGATED FORM AND NO PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE DISPLAYED.

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TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF LIGHT REFRESHMENT IN YUEN LONG  
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TENDERS ARE NOW BEING INVITED FOR THE SALE OF LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT YUEN LONG RECREATION AND SPORTS GROUND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS CAN START BUSINESS ON APRIL 16 AND THE CONTRACT WILL EXPIRE ON MARCH 31, 1984, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

TENDER FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF NTSD HEADQUARTERS BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 19.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON TELEPHONE 0-678715.

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### NT PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS MORE POPULAR

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MORE AND MORE NEW TERRITORIES PEOPLE ARE USING THE VARIOUS SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE 21 PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE EIGHT NT DISTRICTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT IN 1981, A TOTAL OF 783 031 CASES WERE HANDLED, AN AVERAGE OF 3 107 CASES A MONTH AT EACH COUNTER.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR WHEN 625 925 PEOPLE MADE USE OF THE ENQUIRY COUNTERS WHICH ARE SET UP IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS SUCH AS A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OR IN THE CENTRE OF A TOWN, HE SAID.

FACILITIES PROVIDED AT THESE COUNTERS INCLUDE : STATUTORY DECLARATION SERVICE, FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON COMPLAINTS, GENERAL ENQUIRIES, REFERRALS FOR FREE LEGAL AID SERVICE, MEDIATING IN FAMILY OR PERSONAL DISPUTES, AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS AND FORMS.

MOST COUNTERS ARE OPEN DURING OFFICE HOURS, WHILE SEVERAL REMAIN OPEN EVEN AT LUNCH TIME AND SOME OTHERS EXTEND THE SERVICE TO LATE EVENING HOURS DEPENDING ON THE DEMAND FOR THE FACILITIES.

THE FIRST COUNTER WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968 IN THE LOBBY OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND OVER THE YEARS MORE AND MORE WERE SET UP IN OTHER AREAS TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR THIS POPULAR SERVICE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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### MACLEHOSE TRAIL DIVERSION

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SEASONED HIKERS ON THE WELL-TRODDEN MACLEHOSE TRAIL WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES COVERING A LITTLE MORE DISTANCE IN ONE OF THE TEN STAGES OF THE TRAIL.

THE EXTRA DISTANCE TO BE FOUND IN STAGE 10 OF THE 100-KILOMETRE TRAIL — HONG KONG'S FIRST LONG-DISTANCE HIKING TRAIL — COMES INTO BEING OUT OF NECESSITY RATHER THAN BY DESIGN.

A SECTION IN THIS STAGE OF THE TRAIL, NEAR THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE, WILL BE CLOSED FROM WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10) TO FACILITATE WORKS CONNECTED WITH WATER SUPPLIES.

IN ITS PLACE, A NEW ROUTE OF ABOUT 920 METRES WILL BE BUILT AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.

THE DIVERSION IS EXPECTED TO BE IN FORCE UNTIL THE WORKS ARE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS.

THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY WILL PUT UP SIGNPOSTS AND WAYMARKS TO DIRECT HIKERS.

NEW MAPS WILL ALSO BE FOUND AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE NEW ROUTE.

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