



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

\$53 MILLION SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID OUT IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER	1
DRAGNET AGAINST TAX EVADERS BEING TIGHTENED	2
SCHOOLS GIVEN RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS LIST	3
COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF TSIM SHA TSUI	4
MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS	5
WATER CUT	5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

- 1 -
\$53 MILLION SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID OUT IN
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

* * * *

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PAID OUT \$53 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AS NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY CASH BENEFITS TO NEEDY FAMILIES, THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED.

THIS BRINGS TO A STAGGERING \$188 MILLION THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAID OUT IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR -- NEARLY \$50 MILLION MORE THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE MONEY WENT TO MORE THAN 140,000 NEEDY FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION.

MR. CHENG KWAN-KUEN, HEAD OF THE DIVISION, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT OF THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, \$31.7 MILLION WERE PAID OUT AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, \$13.2 MILLION AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND \$8 MILLION AS DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

+PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A GUARANTEED INCOME TO NEEDY HOUSEHOLDS, ENABLING THEM TO MEET THE COST OF ESSENTIALS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING WITHOUT SUFFERING HARDSHIP,+ MR. CHENG SAID.

+OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES PROVIDE CASH ASSISTANCE ON TOP OF ANY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE ELDERLY AND THE SEVERELY DISABLED TO REMAIN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND AMONG THEIR FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. CHENG SAID HIS DIVISION'S 26 FIELD UNITS WERE HANDLING AROUND 47,300 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 120,000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES AND 200,000 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

MR. CHENG SAID THAT OF THE 120,000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES, 54,000 WERE MADE BY APPLICANTS AGED BETWEEN 70 AND 74 YEARS AS THE QUALIFYING AGE WAS REDUCED TO 70 ON OCTOBER 1.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING WORKING OVERTIME BY SOME OF THE STAFF, TO CLEAR THE EXISTING BACKLOG DUE TO THE INITIAL INFLUX OF NEW APPLICATIONS.

NEWLY-RECRUITED WELFARE ASSISTANTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVELY TO PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS AND ANOTHER RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL MANPOWER REQUIRED, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

- 2 -

DRAGNET AGAINST TAX EVADERS BEING TIGHTENED

* * * *

THE INVESTIGATION UNIT OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IS GRADUALLY TIGHTENING THE DRAGNET AGAINST TAX EVADERS WITH AN INCREASE IN STAFF.

OFFICERS EXPERIENCED IN TAXATION WORK HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER UNITS OF THE DEPARTMENT TO FILL NEW POSTS IN THE INVESTIGATION UNIT WHICH IS ALSO WIDENING THE SCOPE OF ITS WORK AGAINST TAX EVASION.

AT PRESENT, THE INVESTIGATION UNIT IS HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE. UNDER HIM THE ESTABLISHMENT PROVIDES FOR ONE CHIEF ASSESSOR, SEVEN SENIOR ASSESSORS, 26 ASSESSORS, 15 ASSISTANT ASSESSORS AND A NUMBER OF SUPPORTING STAFF.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID, +THIS HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH OUR STRENGTH IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.+

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE CASES HANDLED BY THE INVESTIGATION UNIT CONCERN PROFITS TAX EVASION, ALTHOUGH SALARIES TAX CASES AND TO A LESSER EXTENT OTHER TAXES ARE ALSO DEALT WITH.

DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, IT COMPLETED CASES INVOLVING \$25.9 MILLION IN BACK TAXES, INCLUDING OVERDUE PENALTY PAYMENTS, COMPARED WITH BACK TAXES AND PENALTY PAYMENTS AMOUNTING TO \$15.7 MILLION IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1977/78.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 287 CASES LISTED FOR INVESTIGATION WITH 251 UNDER ACTIVE EXAMINATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ANTICIPATED THAT THE NUMBER OF CASES TO BE COMPLETED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT 120. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EACH INVESTIGATION OFFICER NORMALLY HANDLES ABOUT TEN CASES AT ANY ONE TIME AND ADDED THAT MANY OF THE CASES HANDLED ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX AND CAN BE EXTREMELY TIME CONSUMING.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, MORE THAN 95 PER CENT OF THE CASES PROBED BY THE INVESTIGATION UNIT TURNED OUT TO HAVE INVOLVED TAX EVASION.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF MINOR AND MORE STRAIGHT FORWARD CASES ARE HANDLED BY ASSESSORS IN THE PROFITS TAX AND SALARIES TAX UNITS IN ADDITION TO THEIR NORMAL ASSESSMENT WORK. IN 1977/78, THE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES WAS 316 INVOLVING TAX AND PENALTIES AMOUNTING TO ANOTHER \$2.5 MILLION, HE SAID.

+TAX EVASION IS A GAMBLE NOT WORTH TAKING BECAUSE BOTH THE CHANCES AND THE COST OF THEIR BEING CAUGHT ARE GREATER TODAY THAN BEFORE,+ HE ADDED.

UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE CAN IMPOSE ON THE EVADER A MAXIMUM FINE OF TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX EVADED. ALTERNATIVELY, WHERE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ARE INSTITUTED IN THE COURTS, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT PLUS A \$10,000 FINE AND A FURTHER FINE OF TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX EVADED.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

- 3 -

SCHOOLS GIVEN RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS LIST

* * * *

A CONSOLIDATED LIST OF RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN SENT TO HEADS OF ALL SCHOOLS FOR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE.

THE LIST, DRAWN UP BY THE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, COVERS SUCH SUBJECTS AS CHINESE, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY AND OTHERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE NUMBER OF TEXTBOOKS USED FOR ANY ONE SUBJECT SHOULD BE KEPT TO A REASONABLE MINIMUM, AND FREQUENT CHANGES OF TEXTBOOKS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.+

TO ENSURE THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE TO PARENTS IN THE PURCHASE OF NEW OR SECOND-HAND COPIES, BOOK LISTS DISTRIBUTED TO PUPILS SHOULD GIVE FULL DETAILS OF ALL TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED FOR THE NEW TERM.

+THESE DETAILS SHOULD INCLUDE THE EXACT TITLE OF EACH TEXTBOOK, THE EDITION, THE NAMES OF THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER AND ANY OTHER DETAILS NECESSARY TO AVOID AMBIGUITY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PRICES OF THE TEXTBOOKS SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN AS A GUIDE TO PARENTS, AND SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE THE RECOMMENDED LIST AVAILABLE TO ANY PARENT WHO WISHED TO SEE IT.

IT IS THE PRACTICE OF SOME BOOKSELLERS TO PRINT COMPLETE LISTS OF BOOKS SELECTED FOR USE IN THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC YEAR AND DISTRIBUTE THEM FREE OF CHARGE TO PUPILS.

+THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THIS ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED PARENTS ARE CLEARLY INFORMED THAT THE ISSUE OF SUCH A LIST IMPLIES NO COMPULSION WHATSOEVER TO PURCHASE FROM A PARTICULAR BOOKSELLER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON SCHOOLS MAKING BULK PURCHASES OF TEXTBOOKS FOR SALE TO THEIR PUPILS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO SUCH ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED THAT PARTICIPATION BY PUPILS WAS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND PARENTS WERE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THIS.

THIS APPLIES ALSO TO CASES WHERE SCHOOLS OFFER FOR SALE COMPLETE PARCELS OF BOOKS, WITH OR WITHOUT SCHOOL MATERIALS.

+PARENTS MUST NOT BE COMPELLED TO PURCHASE SUCH PARCELS.

+THE CONTENTS MUST BE CLEARLY ITEMISED, THE PRICE OF EACH ITEM SHOWN SEPARATELY, AND PARENTS BE MADE FULLY AWARE THAT, IF THEY WISH, THEY CAN BUY THE NECESSARY ITEMS INDEPENDENTLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SIMILARLY, THAT IS NO OBJECTION TO TEXTBOOKS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE ON SCHOOL PREMISES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BOOKSELLERS OR PUBLISHERS, PROVIDED PARENTS ARE FULLY INFORMED OF THE PROCEDURE AND THE BENEFIT OF ANY SPECIAL DISCOUNT GIVEN IS PASSED ON TO THE PUPILS IN THE FORM OF REDUCED PRICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

- 4 -

COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF TSIM SHA TSUI AREA

* * * * *

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED DETAILS OF PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE 0.92 HECTARE REDEVELOPMENT AREA IS BOUNDED BY HANOI ROAD, MODY ROAD, BRISTOL AVENUE AND CARNARVON ROAD.

THE AREA AT PRESENT COMPRISES INDIVIDUAL LOTS WHOSE CROWN LEASES ARE DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 24, 1978.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE AIM OF THE SCHEME WAS TO RAISE THE QUALITY AND TONE OF THIS PART OF TSIM SHA TSUI.

+WITHOUT COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT THE AREA WOULD BE REDEVELOPED, IF AT ALL, PIECEMEAL OVER A LONGER PERIOD WITH EVEN GREATER CONGESTION THAN AT PRESENT, LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL STANDARD OF BUILDING AND NO PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

+A FEATURE OF THE SCHEME IS TO USE 0.26 HECTARE FOR PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND OPEN SPACE,+ HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOW RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD AND GIVE THE OWNERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE -- A REQUEST WHICH THEY MADE WHEN THE SCHEME WAS FIRST PUBLICISED,+ HE ADDED.

TO ENSURE THE AREA WAS REDEVELOPED AS A WHOLE, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD LAID DOWN A TIMETABLE AND CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD APPLY IF THE PRESENT OWNERS WISHED TO PARTICIPATE WHEN THEIR LEASES EXPIRE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO, AND APPROVED BY, THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD. THIS WOULD BE A SINGLE PLAN INCORPORATING ALL SEVEN NEW SITES, OUTLINING THE BASIC SHAPE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND GENERALLY CONFORMING WITH A LAYOUT PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE OWNERS WERE REQUIRED TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS AND FORMALLY APPLY FOR THE GRANT OF THE NEW SITES. ONCE THE CORPORATIONS HAD BEEN FORMED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GRANT THE NEW SITES TO THESE CORPORATIONS.

THE OWNERS MAY FORM ONE CORPORATION TO DEVELOP ALL SITES, OR MORE THAN ONE TO DEVELOP THE SITES INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1978

- 5 -

MANAGEMENT SEMINARS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

* * * * *

A SERIES OF TWO-DAY SEMINARS ON +MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GROWTH OF A LARGE PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANISATION+ WILL BE HELD FOR 100 SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS STARTING TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE SEMINARS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR LEONARD MINKES, PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ORGANISATION AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY, AND DR. GORDON REDDING, DIRECTOR OF DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. JACK CATER, WILL OPEN THE FIRST SEMINAR WHICH WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (DECEMBER 4-5). THE DATES OF THE OTHER TWO SEMINARS ARE DECEMBER 14-15 AND DECEMBER 18-19. ALL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

THIS IS THE FOURTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION THAT PROFESSOR MINKES HAS COME TO HONG KONG TO CONDUCT MANAGEMENT SEMINARS. ON THIS OCCASION HE WILL ALSO HOLD TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICERS FROM 10 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER CUT

* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CENTRAL AND KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 5) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IN CENTRAL IS BOUNDED BY 127-133 AND 84-130 HOLLYWOOD ROAD, INCLUDING HOLLYWOOD ROAD POLICE PRIMARY SCHOOL, 1-13 SHING WONG STREET AND 1-51 GOUGH STREET.

IN KENNEDY TOWN, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY 2-62A BELCHER'S STREET, 1E-1M AND 32-34 SANDS STREET, 16-30 AND 29-39 NORTH STREET, 12A-12G AND 41A-43 SMITHFIELD, 1A-1C AND 1-13 ROCK HILL STREET INCLUDING COLLINSON STREET.

MEANWHILE THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN HUNG HOM, KOWLOON TONG, KOWLOON CITY, WANG TAU HOM AND WONG TAI SIN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 10 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 6) TO 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY TO FACILITATE THE DIVERSION OF WATER MAIN WORKS BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -