



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WILL NO LONGER BE A BURDEN TO THEIR PARENTS OR SOCIETY IF THEY CAN RECEIVE EDUCATION LIKE OTHER CHILDREN AND THUS BE ABLE TO LEAD A SELF-SUPPORTING LIFE WHEN THEY GROW UP.

DURING THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR, THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES OPERATED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HELPED OVER 5,000 CHILDREN SUSPECTED OF HAVING AN IMPAIRMENT OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER TO FIND OUT THE SOURCE OF TROUBLE AND SEEK REMEDIAL HELP ACCORDINGLY.

+THE EARLIER PARENTS BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO OUR CENTRES FOR ASSESSMENT THE BETTER,+ MR. K.H. CHAN, PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES) SAID.

CHILDREN ARE REFERRED TO THE CENTRES BY VOLUNTARY WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS, DOCTORS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

THE TWO CENTRES, ONE IN SIR ELLIS KADOORIE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOSPITAL ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE OTHER IN PERTH STREET GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, PERTH STREET, KOWLOON, PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES INCLUDING AUDIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPEECH TESTING AND EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT.

+ONCE THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED,+ MR. CHAN SAID, +WE CAN PROCEED WITH THE REMEDIAL WORK. AT THE CENTRES WE ALSO PROVIDE REMEDIAL SERVICES SUCH AS AUDITORY AND SPEECH TRAINING FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN, SPEECH THERAPY, AND INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WORK FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING OR BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS. PARENT COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE ALSO PROVIDED. IF NECESSARY, CHILDREN ARE REFERRED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.+

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 35 SPECIAL SCHOOLS WHICH CATER FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. AT THESE SCHOOLS, HANDICAPPED CHILDREN RECEIVE AN EDUCATION AS CLOSE TO THAT OF ORDINARY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE. THE LESS HANDICAPPED ARE ABLE TO ATTEND SPECIAL CLASSES OR ORDINARY CLASSES WITH REMEDIAL TEACHING IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

- 2 -

HOWEVER, SOME OF THESE CHILDREN MAY HAVE TO RETURN TO THE CENTRES FOR COUNSELLING OR EDUCATIONAL TREATMENT ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK.

MR. CHAN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS TO ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILDREN TO THESE SESSIONS SO THAT THEY COULD LEARN AND CARRY ON THE TREATMENT ON THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME.

PARENTS ARE ALSO GIVEN ADVICE ON HOW TO MANAGE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND COUNSELLORS OF THE CENTRES.

APART FROM ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL WORK, THE CENTRES ALSO SERVE AS BASES FOR PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES IN HEARING, SPEECH, AND VISION SCREENING TO DETECT PROBLEMS IN THESE AREAS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND GROUP TESTING PROGRAMMES IN SPOTTING SLOW LEARNING AND MALADJUSTED CHILDREN.

THESE PROGRAMMES ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AT DIFFERENT LEVELS IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS= SOME PROGRAMMES HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER SOME AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

A TOTAL OF OVER 73,000 PUPILS UNDERWENT SUCH SCREENING TESTS IN THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR.

ANOTHER SERVICE RENDERED BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION IS TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED CANDIDATES AT PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS. THE SECTION OPERATES SPECIAL EXAMINATION CENTRES FOR HANDICAPPED CANDIDATES FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AND THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

HANDICAPPED CANDIDATES MAY BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SUCH AS SPECIAL SITTING ARRANGEMENTS, EXTRA TIME ALLOWANCE, SPECIAL INVIGILATORS, AMANUENSIS, BRAILLE EXAMINATION PAPERS AND ALLOWANCE IN ORAL EXAMINATION.

IN ADDITION TO THE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL SERVICES, THE SECTION ALSO DIRECTS A BRAILLE PRINTING PRESS WHICH IS OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER. THIS PRESS PRINTS ALL THE CANTONESE BRAILLE TEXTBOOKS FOR SCHOOLS. TO DATE ABOUT 10,500 VOLUMES OF 234 TYPES OF BOOKS HAVE BEEN PRINTED AND SUPPLIED TO SCHOOLS UNDER GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY AT ONE-TENTH OF THE ACTUAL COST.

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/3

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

- 3 -

INFANTS AND CHILDREN WELL PROTECTED
AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES

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WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONTROLLED MEASURES AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES, HONG KONG MAY WELL CLAIM TO HAVE MUCH BETTER HEALTH FACILITIES FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN THAN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

OF THE 75,000 BABIES BORN LAST YEAR, 96 PER CENT HAVE ATTENDED A GOVERNMENT MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CLINIC AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

BABIES FROM NEWBORN TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE UNDERGO REGULAR PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND RECEIVE VARIOUS IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS, SMALLPOX, MEASLES, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS.

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, 80 MILLION CHILDREN ARE BORN EACH YEAR IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT ONLY FOUR MILLION OF THEM HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY IMMUNIZED AGAINST THE MAIN DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD.

FOR THIS REASON, W.H.O. HAS NOW MADE IT A TARGET TO ASSIST NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES IN EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THEIR IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES AGAINST SIX UBIQUITOUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS INFECTIONS : DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS (OR WHOOPING COUGH), TETANUS, POLIOMYELITIS, MEASLES AND CHILDHOOD TUBERCULOSIS, ALL OF WHICH CAN BE PREVENTED.

BUT IN HONG KONG, IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT THAT IT IS NOW ABLE TO VACCINATE AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS ALMOST 100 PER CENT OF ALL NEW BORN BABIES, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE THE HIGHEST BCG COVERAGE AT BIRTHS IN THE WORLD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DEATH FROM DIPHTHERIA FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND POLIOMYELITIS HAD VIRTUALLY BEEN ERADICATED.

HE SAID ONLY TWO CHILDREN DIED OF MEASLES LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 654 DEATHS IN 1967, WHEN MEASLES VACCINATION WAS INTRODUCED TO HONG KONG.

PERTUSSIS HAS DISAPPEARED FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THE INCIDENCE OF CHILDHOOD TETANUS IS LOW.

IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST COMMON CHILDHOOD DISEASES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN GOVERNMENT'S 37 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES IN ALL PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THESE CENTRES ARE RUN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE, WHICH PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF CARE FOR BABIES AND EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS, INCLUDING ADVICE ON FAMILY PLANNING AND BIRTH CONTROL. MORE CENTRES ARE PLANNED FOR THE CROWDED HOUSING ESTATES.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

- 4 -

DESPITE THE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CONTROL OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN IN HONG KONG, THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST THESE CHILDHOOD DISEASES MUST BE CONTINUED TO KEEP UP THE IMMUNITY LEVEL OF THE POPULATION.

IT IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDED IN ANY COUNTRY IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.

IN HONG KONG, THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE FELL TO 15 PER ONE THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS LAST YEAR FROM 17.4 IN 1974. THE IMR FOR 1964 WAS 26.4 PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE ALSO DROPPED SHARPLY TO 0.03 PER THOUSAND TOTAL BIRTHS FROM 0.16 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE RATE WAS 0.38 10 YEARS AGO.

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TEMPORARY CENTRES FOR COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES

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TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES WILL BE SET UP BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING NEXT WEEK FOR THE COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES FOR THE SECOND PERIOD OF THIS YEAR.

THE SHEUNG SHUI COLLECTION CENTRE WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE AT SHEK WU HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON NOVEMBER 9 AND 10.

THE OTHER CENTRE WILL BE AT THE FANLING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT LUEN WO HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON NOVEMBER 11 AND 12.

THE CENTRES WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

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/5

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

- 5 -

BETTER CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE FOR YOUTHS IN N.T.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A BETTER CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN DRAWN UP TO BRING CAREERS INFORMATION TO SENIOR FORM STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ABOUT TO LEAVE SCHOOL.

SPEAKING ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES, MRS. ANGELA HO, THE LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE, SAID: +WE ARE TAKING THE INFORMATION TO THE STUDENTS IN THE FORM OF CAREERS TALKS IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

+LAST MONTH, OFFICERS OF OUR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE (YEAS) VISITED 15 SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES GIVING TALKS TO SOME 2,000 FORM V STUDENTS ON CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.+

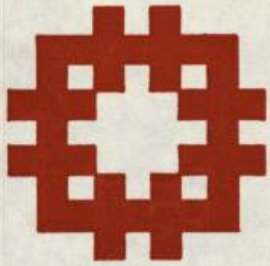
+IN ADDITION TO THESE VISITS,+ MRS. HO SAID, +WE WILL BE STAGING A SERIES OF MOBILE CAREERS EXHIBITIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIFFERENT DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE OUR CAREERS INFORMATION TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEW TOWNS AND REMOTE VILLAGES.

+THE MOBILE EXHIBITIONS WILL BE STAGED ON A SPECIALLY DESIGNED THREE-TON TRUCK WHICH CAN BE UNFOLDED TO BECOME A 500 SQUARE FEET COVERED EXHIBITION PLATFORM,+ SHE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS PROCEEDING WITH PLANS TO ORGANISE ANOTHER LARGE SCALE CAREERS EXHIBITION AT THE KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS, AND IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS TO VISIT THIS EXHIBITION, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE REDUCED TRAIN FARES FOR STUDENT GROUPS.

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN THIS ARRANGEMENT ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT MRS. ANGELA HO AT 5-281494, OR WRITE TO THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT 99 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
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新聞稿

Monday, November 1, 1976

PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS SEEKING EXCHANGES

PREFER NEWER ESTATES

One in 10 of public housing tenants interested in exchanging their flats wants to move to the new Lai King Estate in Tsuen Wan.

This is revealed in statistics produced by the Housing Authority's Mutual Exchange Bureau.

The Bureau was established only in August and, already, 1,284 families have registered. A total of 42 exchanges have been completed and a further 40 are being processed.

"The newer, more centrally located estates are proving most popular for exchange purposes," a Housing Authority spokesman said.

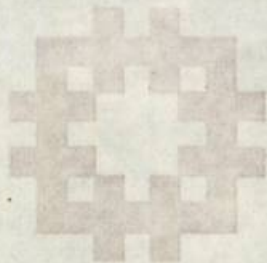
After Lai King, the next most sought after estates are Ho Man Tin (7.93 per cent of all inquiries) and Ping Shek (6.52 per cent of all inquiries).

The spokesman said tenants are able to make known their choices through the Bureau and these can then be matched up with other tenants seeking to exchange.

"Mutual exchanges have the advantage that tenants are able to improve their living standards without involving vacant accommodation and therefore affecting the waiting list," the spokesman added.

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"This service covers domestic tenancies in all public housing estates managed by the Authority and will cover new estates when they become occupied."

After registering, a tenant is interviewed and staff of the Bureau make an on the spot search of its register to see whether a suitable exchange can be arranged immediately. If this is not possible the application is indexed for future reference.

When an exchange appears likely, Bureau staff arrange for the two families to meet and also carry out the administration work.

Tenants seeking exchanges give a variety of reasons such as wanting to be nearer a place of work, to live in self-contained accommodation or even to get away from quarrelsome or gossipy neighbours.

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