



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1991

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VMS' ACTIONS AT WHITEHEAD REGRETTED

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THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (VIETNAMESE UNIT), MR RAYMOND LAI, THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING SAID HE REGRETTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS SHOULD HAVE AGAIN RESORTED TO VIOLENCE TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES.

MR LAI WAS COMMENTING ON THE INCIDENT IN SECTION 4 OF THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE LAST NIGHT IN WHICH 22 VIETNAMESE WERE INJURED.

HE SAID INITIAL ENQUIRIES SHOWED THAT THE VIOLENCE WHICH BROKE OUT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS IN THE SECTION WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE FIGHT ON WEDNESDAY.

MR LAI SAID ONE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES IN LAST NIGHT'S OPERATION WAS THAT AT ONE STAGE, THE ENTRANCE TO THIS SECTION WAS BLOCKED BY ABOUT 400 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO REFUSED TO DISPERSE DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS.

"WE FINALLY MANAGED TO BREAK IN AND THE SITUATION WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL."

IN ALL, 75 CANISTERS OF TEAR GAS WERE USED TO CURB THE FIGHT AND RESTORE ORDER.

MR LAI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN LAST NIGHT'S OPERATION, MANY OF WHOM WERE OFF DUTY OFFICERS WHO WERE CALLED BACK TO ASSIST.

DURING THE OPERATION, TWO OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE COMMANDER AT THE SCENE, SUSTAINED INJURIES.

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REHAB POLICY FOR MENTALLY ILL

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THE EMPHASIS OF THE SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL IN HONG KONG IS ON A COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS HELEN YU, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"OUR POLICY IS TO GRADUALLY MOVE AWAY FROM INSTITUTIONALISATION OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS, WHICH NOT ONLY CREATES ISOLATION BUT ALSO UNDUE SOCIAL STIGMATISATION OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS," MRS YU SAID AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 1991.

"INSTEAD, OUR EMPHASIS IS ON A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN AN INTEGRATED AND COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

/ "THIS MEANS

" THIS MEANS THAT INCREASINGLY PSYCHIATRIC UNITS WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO GENERAL HOSPITALS, AND ALL FUTURE HOSPITALS WILL HAVE SMALL PSYCHIATRIC UNITS," SHE SAID.

MRS YU SAID THE OBJECTIVES WERE TO FACILITATE EARLIER DETECTION AND TREATMENT, TO RECOGNISE THESE PATIENTS AS PART OF THE CASE-MIX FOR GENERAL HOSPITALS AND TO PROMOTE THE SHARING OF EXPERTISE AMONG HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

"THROUGH THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE FAMILY, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND SOCIAL WORKERS, WE AIM AT FACILITATING THE EARLY RE-INTEGRATION OF THE PATIENTS INTO THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE JUST OVER 4,500 BEDS IN LOCAL HOSPITALS FOR THE MENTALLY ILL AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. A FURTHER 2,800 WOULD BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE END OF THIS DECADE.

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RS URGES ALL TO VOTE TOMORROW

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED REGISTERED ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TOMORROW.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR CARNIVAL AT KOWLOON PARK, MR LAN SAID DISTRICT BOARDS PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT LINK FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND TO AIR THEIR VIEWS.

"THE SMOOTH DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF ITS PEOPLE," HE SAID.

MR LAN REMINDED RESIDENTS THAT WHILE CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR, THEY SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME COME OUT IN FORCE TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN TOMORROW'S ELECTIONS SO AS TO BUILD FOR A BETTER DISTRICT.

EARLIER, MR LAN PRAISED THE ORGANISER OF THE CARNIVAL - THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION - FOR HOLDING ART ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS.

"THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE ENHANCED RESIDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT AND HAVE ENCOURAGED THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS," HE SAID.

TODAY'S CARNIVAL, WHICH INCLUDED A VARIETY SHOW, STALL GAMES, LANTERN RIDDLES, SINGING AND DANCING, WAS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH; AND AN URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR WU MAN-KEUNG.

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VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS A SUCCESS
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THE EXPANSION OF THE VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS IS AN INDICATION OF SUCCESS, THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, MR R.N. HAWKES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SCHEME'S CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR HAWKES NOTED THAT THE VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS HAD BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1976 AND THAT THE FACT THAT IT WAS STILL GOING STRONG AND WAS EVEN EXPANDING WAS AN INDICATION OF THE SUCCESS IT HAD BEEN.

VOLUNTEERS HAD TO BE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE AND ONLY THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO SATISFY STRINGENT CRITERIA WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN SCHEME, HE SAID.

"ONE OF THE CRITERIA IS THAT THEY MUST BE PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR OWN TIME TO HELP OTHERS, WITHOUT PAYMENT," HE ADDED.

MR HAWKES POINTED OUT THAT VOLUNTEERS WERE ABLE TO ASSIST PROBATIONERS IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS, SUCH AS HELPING WITH HOME WORK, ENCOURAGING THE BETTER USE OF LEISURE TIME AND PROVIDING FRIENDSHIP.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING WORK DONE BY PROBATION OFFICERS, WHO HAD PRODUCED THOROUGH AND CAREFUL REPORTS FOR ALL COURTS DESPITE THEIR HEAVY WORKLOAD.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALEXANDER FUNG, APPEALED TO PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS TO TAKE PART IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS.

MR HAWKES AND MR FUNG PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO 46 VOLUNTEERS IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE.

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LABOUR TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE EXTENDED
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY EXPANDED ITS GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE (GETS) TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FROM PEOPLE SEEKING INFORMATION ON LABOUR LEGISLATION.

"UNDER THE SECOND PHASE OF GETS WHICH STARTED THIS MONTH, LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ANSWERS OR USE PRE-RECORDED TAPES ON RELEVANT LABOUR SUBJECTS TO ANSWER THE CALLERS QUESTIONS," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION), MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN, EXPLAINED.

/"THE TAPES

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"THE TAPES, AVAILABLE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, COVER 29 TOPICS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS," MR CHAN SAID.

"THEY WILL BE PLAYED BACK TO THE CALLER ON A DATAPHONE MACHINE IF SO DESIRED.

"HOWEVER, COMPLICATED ENQUIRIES AND THOSE RELATING TO SPECIFIC CASES WILL BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR MORE DETAILED ANSWERS."

THE GETS WAS INTRODUCED IN JULY 1989 TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING ENQUIRY SERVICES OPERATED BY VARIOUS DIVISIONS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"IT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC, WITH 64,595 ENQUIRIES RECEIVED LAST YEAR, ABOUT 235 CALLS EVERY DAY," MR CHAN NOTED.

"OF THESE ENQUIRIES, ABOUT HALF REQUIRED VERY SIMPLE AND BRIEF ANSWERS, 23 PER CENT WERE HANDLED BY THE DATAPHONE SYSTEM AND 27 PER CENT WERE REFERRED TO OTHER DIVISIONS OR DEPARTMENTS FOR ACTION," HE ADDED.

THE ENQUIRY HOTLINE -- 815 5066 -- WILL BE MANNED BY FOUR LABOUR INSPECTORS FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

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PLEA ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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ENROLLING CADETS OF THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN, TO SUPPORT AND TO HELP THE SPREAD OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN HONG KONG.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, WHEN ADDRESSING THE CADETS' ENROLMENT CEREMONY AND PASSING-OUT PARADE.

"IN A SOCIETY THAT IS OFTEN CRITICISED FOR BEING DRIVEN BY GREED AND MATERIALISM, IT IS REFRESHING TO FIND THAT THE SPIRIT OF SELFLESSLY HELPING OTHERS IS ALIVE AND WELL AND DRAWING SUCH A STRONG RESPONSE FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE," MR CARTLAND TOLD THE 300 CADETS.

HE NOTED THAT ST JOHN WAS A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION IN A VERY REAL SENSE - AN ORGANISATION OF VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING SERVICE TO OTHERS.

"MANY OF THE OTHER SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG ARE NO LONGER VOLUNTARY IN ANY WAY, A TREND WHICH APPEARS TO COINCIDE WITH INCREASING DEPENDENCY ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING," HE SAID.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY AND THAT HONG KONG WOULD LOSE A LOT IF THIS TREND WERE ALLOWED TO GO TOO FAR.

"ST JOHN IS SETTING A SHINING EXAMPLE NOT ONLY BY MAINTAINING ITS VOLUNTARY CHARACTER BUT ALSO BY AIMING TO MAKE ITSELF ENTIRELY SELF-SUPPORTING," MR CARTLAND SAID.

"WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF ITS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, ST. JOHN LOOKS FORWARD TO REVENUE-EARNING POSSIBILITIES THAT COULD COMPLETELY ELIMINATE DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS AND COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS.

"I WELCOME THIS PUBLIC-SPIRITED AND ENTERPRISING APPROACH AND HOPE THAT OTHERS WILL TAKE NOTE," HE CONCLUDED.

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CIVIC EDUCATION SURVEY IN SHAM SHUI PO

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A SURVEY TO FIND OUT RESIDENTS' VIEWS AND ATTITUDES ON ELECTIONS WAS CONDUCTED IN SHAM SHUI PO THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

IT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE DISTRICT'S COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

MORE THAN 40 SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT HELPED IN THE POLL BY INTERVIEWING ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE AT THE MTR'S LAI CHI KOK, CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, MEI FOO AND SHEK KIP MEI STATIONS.

A COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY WAS AIMED AT DIRECTING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO THIS YEAR'S THREE-TIER ELECTIONS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AS REFERENCE MATERIAL AT THE COMMITTEE'S RESOURCE CENTRE.

TO PROMOTE THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, THE COMMITTEE HAS ARRANGED TWO BROADCASTING VANS TO TOUR THE DISTRICT TOMORROW TO REMIND RESIDENTS TO CAST THEIR VOTE.

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IMMIGRATION RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S CAUSEWAY BAY RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE CURRENTLY SITUATED AT GROUND FLOOR, PARK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 10 SHELTER STREET WILL BE REPROVISIONED TO NEW PREMISES FROM MONDAY (MARCH 4), THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE NEW ADDRESS IS SECOND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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"THE OFFICE WILL BE RENAMED HONG KONG ISLAND RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE UPON REMOVAL," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE OFFICE HOURS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	9 AM TO 12.45 PM
	2 PM TO 4.30 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM TO 12.30 PM

IT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111 FOR ENQUIRIES.

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EXHIBITION ON 'OUT OF THE CLASSROOM' SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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"OUT OF THE CLASSROOM" IS THE TITLE OF A TWO-WEEK EXHIBITION WHICH IS NOW ON PUBLIC DISPLAY AT THE NEW ACTIVITY APPROACH CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN HOK YUEN STREET, HUNG HOM.

TWENTY-FOUR SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THE EXHIBITION.

ON DISPLAY ARE VARIOUS EXHIBITS INCLUDING STUDY KITS, TEACHING AND LEARNING AIDS, MODELS AND WORKCARDS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT TEACHERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO EMBARK ON PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF PUPILS THROUGH MEANINGFUL 'OUT-OF-THE-CLASSROOM' ACTIVITIES," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR WONG SIK-WAH, SAID.

THE EXHIBITION, MR WONG SAID, WOULD PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH MORE TEACHING RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DESIGN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE EXHIBITION, WHICH IS OPEN FROM TODAY TO MARCH 16, EXCEPT SUNDAYS, ARE FROM 10 AM TO 4.30 PM AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE EXHIBITION AND GROUP VISIT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE AT THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ON TEL. 839 2471 OR 839 2472.

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