



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1979

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UNNECESSARY COMPLAINTS HAMPER WORK OF  
WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT  
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO HOUSE HOLDERS TO CHECK WITH THEIR BUILDING MANagements FIRST IF THEY HAVE SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT IN MANY CASES THE PROBLEMS DID NOT REALLY CONCERN THE DEPARTMENT.

+OFTEN THE COMPLAINTS WE RECEIVE ARE OF A MINOR NATURE,+ HE SAID +FREQUENTLY THEY CAN BE TRACED TO DEFECTIVE BALL-VALVES AND DIRTY ROOF TANKS.+

+IN SOME CASES THE SUPPLY HAS BEEN TURNED OFF BY CARETAKERS SO THAT REPAIR WORK CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN OTHER FLATS IN THE SAME BUILDING,+ HE ADDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IF THIS INITIAL STEP WAS TAKEN, THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINTS CENTRES WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MORE SERIOUS CASES AND DEAL WITH THEM QUICKLY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +OUR CENTRES IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON RECEIVE ABOUT 100 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE A DAY.+

STAFF ARE ON DUTY ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. IMMEDIATELY AFTER A COMPLAINT IS RECEIVED, IT IS LOGGED, CLASSIFIED AND REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE DIVISION FOR ACTION.

MOST MATTERS ARE DEALT WITH THE SAME DAY, MANY OF THEM WITHIN HOURS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE CENTRES ONLY DEALT WITH COMPLAINTS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINTS CENTRES:

HONG KONG ISLAND:	5-726311
KOWLOON	: 3-948261
TAI PO	: 12-662368
FANLING	: 12-900322
YUEN LONG	: 12-762626

MATTERS OF A NON-TECHNICAL NATURE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE COMPLAINT AND ENQUIRY SECTION AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS IN LEIGHTON CENTRE, LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-7900222/4.

+BY CO-OPERATING IN THIS WAY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +CONSUMERS WILL HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNNECESSARY CALLS, AND ENABLE THE COMPLAINTS CENTRES TO DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDING A BETTER SERVICE TO THOSE WHO ACTUALLY NEED IT.+

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### TREE NURSERY TO INCREASE OUTPUT

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF ITS TREE NURSERIES NEXT YEAR AS PART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE TREE PLANTING SCHEME.

THE TREE NURSERY AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TAI LUNG EXPERIMENTAL FARM IN SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES AIMS TO INCREASE ITS ANNUAL PRODUCTION RATE FROM 300 000 TREE SEEDLINGS THIS YEAR TO ABOUT 400 000 IN 1980.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE TREE NURSERY, MR. MICHAEL HSU SAID MOST OF THE TREE SEEDLINGS RAISED ARE FOR PLANTING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE TO ENHANCE THE BEAUTY OF LANDSCAPES, PROTECT THE HILLS FROM EROSION AND PROVIDE SHADES FOR PICNICKERS IN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

YOUNG PLANTS RAISED IN THE NURSERY ARE ALSO USED FOR LANDSCAPING IN URBAN AREAS AND NEW TOWNS.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 80 SPECIES OF TREES AND SHRUBS RECORDED IN THE NURSERY, THE MOST POPULAR ONES BEING THE ACACIA, BRISBANE BOX, BAUHINIA AND CASUARINA.

THE YOUNG PLANTS ARE USUALLY GROWN FROM SEEDS COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF. BUT WHERE TREES DO NOT PRODUCE SEEDS, THE CUTTING AND AIR-LAYERING PROCESSES ARE USED FOR PROPAGATION.

MR. HSU EXPLAINED THAT AIR-LAYERING METHOD APPLIES TO TREES WHOSE CUTTINGS DO NOT GROW ROOTS EASILY. THE PROCESS INVOLVES PEELING OFF THE BARK OF A SMALL SEGMENT OF A YOUNG BRANCH AND WRAPPING IT UP WITH EARTH AND POLYTHENE SHEET. THE BRANCH CAN BE CUT OFF FOR PLANTING WHEN IT DEVELOPS ROOTS.

SEEDS ARE SOWN AND NURSED IN SOIL BEDS FOR 20 TO 40 DAYS BEFORE THE SEEDLINGS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO BE TRANSPLANTED INTO SMALL POLYTHENE BAGS FILLED WITH A MIXTURE OF SOIL, COMPOST AND FERTILISER.

+POLYTHENE BAGS ARE USED INSTEAD OF POTS, BECAUSE THEY ARE CHEAPER, EASIER TO HANDLE, AND MORE CONVENIENT FOR TRANSPORTATION,+ MR. HSU SAID. AFTER TRANSPLANTING, THE YOUNG SEEDLINGS REQUIRE CONSTANT CARE SUCH AS BRANCH AND ROOT PRUNING, SPACING OUT, APPLICATION OF FERTILISERS, PEST CONTROL, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE RATHER SPECIALISED SKILL.

AFTER ANOTHER EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS, THE SEEDLINGS ARE THEN READY FOR PLANTING ON THE HILLSIDES.

STAFF OF THE NURSERY ALSO CONDUCT TRIALS TO TEST THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES FOR GUIDE TO FUTURE PRODUCTION.

/THE RESULT.....

THE RESULT OF ONE OF THESE TRIALS WAS THE DISCOVERY THAT A CONICAL-SHAPED TREE, +MACARANGA TENARIUS+, CAN WITHSTAND GALE FORCE WINDS AS IT WAS PROVEN DURING THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON HOPE.

+I HOPE TO GROW MORE OF THIS TREE NEXT YEAR,+ MR. HSU SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM SUPPLYING STOCKS TO COUNTRY PARKS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE NURSERY MAKES AVAILABLE A SMALL AMOUNT OF SEEDLINGS FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY SCHOOLS, ORGANISATIONS AND FARMERS.

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#### TEACHING HANDICAPPED CHILDREN HOW TO SPEAK \* \* \* \* \*

TWO YEARS AGO, A WORRIED MOTHER TOOK HER FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL SERVICES CENTRE IN SAI YING PUN FOR CONSULTATION BECAUSE HIS SPEECH WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE AND HE WAS SLOW IN GENERAL LEARNING ABILITY.

DIAGNOSIS MADE BY A MEDICAL OFFICER AND A PSYCHOLOGIST SHOWED HE HAD MINIMAL BRAIN DAMAGE, AND THOUGH HAVING AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE, HE WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS BEHIND A NORMAL CHILD IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ABILITY.

A SPEECH THERAPIST AT THE CENTRE THEN DREW UP A TREATMENT PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE THE BOY TO EXPRESS HIMSELF IN VARIOUS WAYS AND TO ARTICULATE DIFFERENT SPEECH SOUNDS.

THE BOY, NOW SEVEN YEARS OF AGE, HAS JUST FINISHED KINDERGARTEN. HIS SPEECH IS NOW INTELLIGIBLE, BUT STILL HE HAS PROBLEMS IN UNDERSTANDING AND EXPRESSING MORE ABSTRACT AND COMPLICATED IDEAS.

+THERE MAY BE OTHER PROBLEMS AS THE BOY GROWS UP, FOR EXAMPLE READING PROBLEM. BUT HE HAS ALREADY MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING HIS SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS,+ SAID MISS BETTY KO, SPEECH THERAPIST OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION.

MISS KO SAID THAT IF NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR THE BOY TO GO TO A SPECIAL CLASS FOR SLOW-LEARNING CHILDREN.

THE SPEECH SCREENING PROGRAMME, FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1969, IS TO ENSURE ALL CONGENITAL OR ACQUIRED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS OF A SCHOOL CHILD ARE DISCOVERED AND REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

AT PRESENT, SPEECH SCREENING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO PRIMARY THREE STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS ONLY, BUT AS OUTLINED IN THE 1977 REHABILITATION WHITE PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO HAVE THE SERVICE EXTENDED TO COVER PRIMARY THREE STUDENTS OF ALL SCHOOLS BY 1985.

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MISS KO EXPLAINED THAT THE SCREENING TEAMS VISIT THOSE SCHOOLS COVERED BY THE PROGRAMME TO CONDUCT ARTICULATION TESTS OF CANTONESE SPEECH SOUNDS OF PUPILS.

IF ANY SIGNS OF SPEECH IMPAIRMENT ARE DETECTED IN A CHILD, HE WILL BE REFERRED TO ONE OF THE TWO SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES IN HOSPITAL ROAD SAI YING PUN OR PERTH STREET, KOWLOON, FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT.

+IF A CHILD SUFFERS FROM MODERATE TO SEVERE SPEECH IMPAIRMENT, REGULAR THERAPY WILL BE PROVIDED AT ONE OF THE TWO TREATMENT CENTRES,+ MISS KO SAID.

+BUT SPEECH THERAPY IS SOMETIMES A SLOW PROCESS WHICH REQUIRES NOT ONLY PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE BUT ALSO GREAT PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE. APART FROM ORDINARY ARTICULATION EXERCISES, THE SPEECH THERAPIST WILL USE TOYS AND VARIOUS PROBLEM-SOLVING AND SIMULATING GAMES TO ENHANCE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD.

+IN ADDITION TO TREATING SPEECH-IMPAIRED CHILDREN, OUR STAFF WILL GIVE PARENTS ADVICE ON HOW TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME. IF NECESSARY, PLACEMENT IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR SPECIAL CLASSES MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED,+ SHE ADDED.

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#### SHORT-TERM TENANCIES FOR TWO TSING YI SITES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCIES FOR TWO PRIME SITES ON TSING YI ISLAND.

LOCATED CLOSE TO TSING YI BRIDGE, THE TWO ADJACENT SITES OCCUPY 2 600 AND 4 600 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THE SMALLER SITE IS INTENDED FOR THE STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING CONTRACTORS' PLANT AND MACHINERY. ONLY APPLICATIONS FROM ACCREDITED PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONTRACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

THIS TENANCY, WHICH IS FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, ALLOWS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY BUILDING AS A MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP.

THE SECOND SITE IS ALSO FOR A THREE YEARS TENANCY BUT ITS USE IS RESTRICTED TO OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

THE ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. HUMPHREY BEESON SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE SITES WERE BEING OFFERED TO MEET INCREASED DEMANDS FOR STORAGE AND CONTRACTOR SITES DUE TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT AND WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOME.

/+THE FIRST.....

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+THE FIRST SITE IS ON OFFER TO CONTRACTORS INCLUDING THOSE WORKING ON THE TSING YI ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

MR. BEESON SAID THE SECOND SITE WAS SUITABLE FOR VARIOUS STORAGE PURPOSES AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE TO CAR DEALERS AND TO CONTAINER BUSINESSES. HOWEVER, HE SAID, LOADING AND UNLOADING GOODS ON THE SITE WOULD BE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

MR. BEESON SAID EXPANSION OF THE LOCAL CONTAINER TRADE HAD RESULTED IN A SHORTAGE OF LAND NEAR THE CONTAINER TERMINAL AT KWAI CHUNG.

TENDERS FOR THE TWO SITES WILL CLOSE ON OCTOBER 19.

TENDER FORMS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, FIFTH FLOOR, HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

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#### FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON THREE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
OCTOBER 10 (WEDNESDAY)	7 A.M. -- 4.30 P.M.
OCTOBER 11 (THURSDAY)	7 A.M. -- 11 P.M.
OCTOBER 12 (FRIDAY)	7 A.M. -- 5 P.M.

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#### WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MID-LEVELS WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 8) TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY 11-17, AND 10-16 BOWEN ROAD AND 48-86 KENNEDY ROAD.

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