



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1975

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ORPHAN GIRLS BECOMING MORE POPULAR WITH
ADOPTING COUPLES

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THE TRADITIONAL PREFERENCE FOR BOYS AMONG ADOPTING PARENTS APPEARS TO BE WANING WITH MORE AND MORE COUPLES WILLING TO ADOPT GIRLS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

ADDRESSING THE LIONS CLUB OF BAYVIEW, HE NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN A COMMON PRACTICE AMONG THE CHINESE FOR A CHILDLESS COUPLE TO ADOPT A BOY TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY NAME, BUT RECENTLY GIRLS WERE BECOMING MORE POPULAR.

HOWEVER, DESPITE POPULAR BELIEF, HONG KONG DID NOT HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WAITING TO BE ADOPTED, HE SAID. +IT IS QUITE THE REVERSE AND, IN FACT, THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE WANTING TO ADOPT CHILDREN THAN THERE ARE CHILDREN AVAILABLE.+

LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE ONLY 43 CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION, WHILE TEN YEARS AGO THERE WERE 134. AMONG THOSE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION, HE SAID, ARE SOME SEVERELY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN FOR WHOM IT WILL ALWAYS BE DIFFICULT TO FIND ADOPTERS.

MR. LEE EXPLAINED THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION AND STRESSED THAT THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN ARRANGING THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD IS TO SEE THAT THE CHILD IS PLACED IN A HOME WITH AN ENVIRONMENT COMPATIBLE TO THAT IN WHICH CHILDREN SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP.

+THE BASIC PREMISE ON WHICH ADOPTION RESTS,+ HE SAID, + IS THAT EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO BE LOVED AND PROPERLY CARED FOR IN A FAMILY SETTING.+

MR. LEE SQUASHED THE MISGUIDED BELIEF THAT WEALTH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN ADOPTION. +ON THE CONTRARY, WEALTH IS ONLY A MINOR CONSIDERATION AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED,+ HE SAID. +WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE MOTIVATION, THE AFFECTION, THE CARE AND CONCERN FOR A CHILD.+

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ADOPTIONS, HE WENT ON, MUST GO THROUGH THE SUPREME COURT AND UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES IT TOOK NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE A CASE.

ONCE A SUITABLE COUPLE HAS BEEN FOUND THE CHILD IS PLACED IN THEIR TEMPORARY CARE TO ALLOW TIME FOR ADJUSTMENT. AN ASSESSMENT IS THEN MADE AND A RECOMMENDATION PUT BEFORE THE COURT FOR THE ADOPTION TO PROCEED.

IN THE CASE OF AN ABANDONED CHILD, EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO TRACE THE PARENTS TO GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM BACK THE CHILD. IF THEY DO NOT DO SO WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, AND A COURT ORDER IS GRANTED, THEY WOULD HAVE NO LEGAL CLAIM TO THE CHILD IN FUTURE.

/COMMENTING

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COMMENTING ON THE MUCH-PUBLICISED CASE OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CHILDREN, MR. LEE SAID THAT AT THE TIME A NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR THEIR ADOPTION. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE STATUS OF THE CHILDREN HAD NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR.

+IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS THAT UNDER WHICH THEY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG IT IS CERTAINLY VERY EASY TO BECOME EMOTIONAL AND WANT TO PLACE THESE IN NEW HOMES.

+BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THESE CHILDREN, AND OTHERS LIKE THEM, MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE ORPHANS OR EVEN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION. MANY MAY STILL HAVE PARENTS FROM WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN SEPARATED AND WHO WOULD WISH TO BE REUNITED WITH THEM,+ HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CHILD WELFARE IN GENEVA HAD WARNED OF THE ERRORS OF WANTING TO LINK INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION POSSIBILITIES WITH THE EVACUATION OF CHILDREN IN TIMES OF DISASTER AND HAD SAID THAT THE DESIRE TO SAVE A CHILD BY ADOPTING IT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IS, IN TIME, A SELFISH ACT THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. LEE'S SPEECH ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. NEWS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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BANKING COURSE FOR 40 YOUNGSTERS

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THE LIU CHONG HING BANK IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE RUNNING A FOUR-WEEK ORIENTATION COURSE ON BANKING BUSINESS FOR A GROUP OF 40 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AUGUST 11 TO SEPTEMBER 6.

THE OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- * PROVIDE SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH PRACTICAL WORKING EXPERIENCE IN THE BANKING FIELD=
- * SERVE AS CAREER GUIDANCE FOR THEM AND,
- * HELP THEM MAKE USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME IN GAINING SOME WORKING EXPERIENCE.

THIRTY FOUR OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S 10 URBAN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS AND SELECTED BY A BOARD FORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BANK AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE OTHER SIX CAME FROM THE BANK'S CHONG HING COLLEGE.

THEY WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE BANK'S HEAD OFFICE, KOWLOON MAIN OFFICE AND 13 OTHER BRANCHES. EACH WILL RECEIVE A \$200 SUBSIDY TO COVER FOOD AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

AN OPENING CEREMONY TO INAUGURATE THE COURSE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 9) AT 2.30 P.M. AT THE CHIU CHOW ASSOCIATION BUILDING, 81, DES VOEUX ROAD, WEST, HONG KONG. MR. LIU LIT-MAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE BANK AND MR. F.S. CLARK, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, WILL OFFICIATE IN THE CEREMONY.

GUESTS WILL INCLUDE MR. NICHOLAS NG, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WESTERN)= MR. LAI CHAM-KAN, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER (WESTERN)= MR. YEUNG CHI-KIN, LABOUR OFFICER, YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE= MR. HENRY AU, ACTING SENIOR PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION AND MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, ACTING PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER.

AT THE CEREMONY, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN TWO LECTURES ON BANKING BUSINESS IN HONG KONG AND ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE BRANCHES.

WHEN THE COURSE IS COMPLETED, THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THEIR DAILY WORKING EXPERIENCE AND THEIR COMMENTS. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THREE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE RECOMMENDED BY THEIR SUPERVISORS AS BEING THE MOST PUNCTUAL, COURTEOUS, DILIGENT AND WILLING TO LEARN.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 9) AT 2.30 P.M.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO EEC
COMPANY QUOTAS TO BE ISSUED ON FRIDAY
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 8) THE DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE COMPANY QUOTAS IN RESPECT OF THE BULK OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS UNDER EXPORT RESTRAINT TO THE EEC. LIKEWISE, LICENSING FOR SUCH EXPORT ITEMS WILL COMMENCE ON THE SAME DAY.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID, HOWEVER, THAT QUOTA ALLOCATION AND LICENSING FOR EXPORTS TO THE EEC OF KNIT PULLOVERS AND, PERHAPS, A FEW OTHER ITEMS WILL TAKE SEVERAL MORE DAYS DUE TO THE NEED FOR MORE DETAILED CALCULATIONS.

MR. MCGREGOR ASSURED MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS THAT QUOTAS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN VARYING AMOUNTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE COMMON MARKET.

HE SAID THAT CALCULATION OF QUOTAS, BASED ON PAST EXPORT PERFORMANCE, WAS A TIME-CONSUMING TASK AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ABLE TO ALLOCATE QUOTAS AND LICENSING ONLY BECAUSE OF THE ADDITIONAL STAFF HELP IT HAD OBTAINED AS WELL AS THE WILLINGNESS OF THE STAFF INVOLVED TO WORK LATE INTO THE NIGHT DURING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.

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GOVERNOR TO INSPECT CONDITIONS IN KOWLOON
CITY TOMORROW
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL VISIT KOWLOON CITY TOMORROW AFTERNOON AND HAVE TALKS WITH KAIFONG LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, SIR MURRAY WILL ARRIVE AT 20, WHAMPAO STREET AT 2.40 P.M. WHERE HE WILL BE MET BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER/KOWLOON CITY, MR. BILLY LAM, AND FOUR MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

HE WILL TOUR THE BUILDING BEFORE HE PROCEEDS TO MEI LEE MANSION AT 37, CHEUNG NING STREET, TOKWAWAN TO SEE THE ANTI-BURGLARY ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLED THERE BY THE BUILDING'S MAC.

SIR MURRAY WILL THEN MOVE TO HO MAN TIN ESTATE WHERE HE WILL MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE AREA.

THE WHOLE VISIT WILL LAST ABOUT TWO HOURS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

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MUSIC FAIR IN TSUEN WAN
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A MUSIC FAIR WILL BE HELD AT TSUEN WAN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING AS PART OF A DRIVE TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN MUSIC AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN.

MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE FAIR WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM 7 P.M. TO 11 P.M. AT THE PLAYGROUND OF THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN.

MORE THAN A DOZEN LOCAL SINGERS AND POP AND FOLK GROUPS WILL TAKE PART IN THE SHOW WHICH HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY A MUSIC GROUP OF THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE GROUP, FORMED THREE YEARS AGO, CONSISTS OF ABOUT 30 YOUNG MUSIC DEVOTEES WHO HAVE HELD A SERIES OF MUSICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

ADMISSION TO THE MUSIC FAIR IS FREE AND ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED THE REAR PORTION OF NO. 29A AND NO. 30 FA KUNG YUEN, TA TIT STREET, KOWLOON, TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION AND NO. 29B LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID TODAY THAT THESE TWO-STORY BUILDINGS HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE ADJOINING BUILDINGS WERE CLOSED FOR DEMOLITION LAST YEAR.

RECENTLY NO. 29C TA TIT STREET, SITUATED BETWEEN NOS. 29B AND 30, WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER FOLLOWING A PARTIAL ROOF COLLAPSE AND IT BECAME NECESSARY TO DEMOLISH THIS BUILDING.

INSPECTION OF THE REAR PORTION OF NO. 29A AND NO. 30, WHICH ARE OF WEAK CONSTRUCTION, REVEALED FRACTURED AND CRUSHED BRICK PIERS AND DECAYED TIMBERS AND A COLLAPSE COULD OCCUR.

BECAUSE OF BULGED AND DETERIORATED BRICK-WORK THERE IS A RISK THAT NO. 29B TA TIT STREET MAY COLLAPSE DURING OR AFTER THE DEMOLITION OF NO. 29C.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS WERE POSTED TODAY. THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE HEARD IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 3.

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