



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

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MORE H.K. MARRIAGES END UP ON THE ROCKS

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RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIAL VALUES ARE PRODUCING AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF BROKEN MARRIAGES AND SUBSEQUENTLY A MUCH HEAVIER CASELOAD FOR THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

MANY MARITAL DISPUTES END IN DIVORCES, AS INDICATED BY THE FAST RISING DIVORCE RATE DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. DURING THE 1974/75 FINANCIAL YEAR, A TOTAL OF 959 CASES WERE FILED FOR DIVORCE, AN INCREASE OF 125 OR ABOUT 15 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE.

BUT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE DISPUTES NEVER WENT INTO THE DIVORCE RECORDS BECAUSE AMICABLE SETTLEMENTS WERE REACHED AFTER PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE BY WELFARE OFFICERS OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION.

MR. ALEXANDER FUNG, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE DIVISION, SAID TODAY THAT THE MAIN CAUSE OF MARITAL DISPUTES IS STILL FINANCIAL.

+BUT NEW AREAS OF CONFLICT, MUCH UNNOTICED PREVIOUSLY IN HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN EMERGING RECENTLY AND THE MOST OBVIOUS OF THESE IS WHAT WE TERM AS 'ROLE AMBIGUITY'.

+THE WOMAN IN A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT COUPLE, WHICH IS THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION AMONG YOUNG COUPLES THESE DAYS, MAY MAKE OUT BETTER THAN THE MAN,+ HE SAID. +IN EXTREME CASES, THE WOMAN MAY COMPLETELY TAKE OVER THE ROLE OF THE BREAD WINNER WHILE THE MAN IS LEFT WITH THE DAILY HOUSEHOLD CHORES.+

+THIS MAY LEAD TO SERIOUS CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE MAN'S SENSE OF PRIDE AND POSSESSIVENESS AND THE EMANCIPATED WOMAN'S SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM,+ SAID MR. FUNG.

ANOTHER NEW CAUSE OF A NUMBER OF MARITAL DISPUTES AND DIVORCES, HE ADDED, WAS PRE-MARITAL SEXUAL FREEDOM.

+QUITE A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGES BY UNEXPECTED PREGNANCIES BEFORE THEY REALLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. SUCH MARRIAGES, WITH WEAK FOUNDATION AND BASED ON OBLIGATION RATHER THAN LOVE, ARE MORE LIABLE TO GO ON THE ROCKS.

+OTHER COMMON CAUSES OF DISPUTES ARE ADULTERY, PERSONALITY CONFLICTS, IN-LAW PROBLEMS, BAD HABITS SUCH AS DRINKING, GAMBLING OR DRUGS AND DESERTION,+ SAID MR. FUNG.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF MARITAL DISPUTES BEING BROUGHT BEFORE THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION HAS ENCOURAGED RATHER THAN DAUNTED MR. FUNG AND HIS STAFF.

/+PARADOXICALLY

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+PARADOXICALLY, WE FIND THIS TO BE A HEALTHY SIGN BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GIVING UP THEIR TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE OF NOT WASHING ONE'S DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC. THE FACT THAT THEY ARE BRINGING THEIR PROBLEMS TO US SHOWS THAT THE VALUE OF OUR SERVICES IS RECOGNISED,+ HE SAID.

+MOST OF THE COUPLES COMING TO US FOR ADVICE ARE WITHIN THE 25-30 AGE GROUP,+ HE ADDED, +AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS OPEN-MINDED TREND SPREADING TO OLDER COUPLES.+

MR. FUNG SAID THAT MARITAL PROBLEMS BROUGHT TO HIS DIVISION FOR MEDIATION COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN GROUPS -- THOSE IN WHICH BOTH PARTNERS RECOGNISED THAT PROBLEMS EXISTED AND TRIED TO REACH A SETTLEMENT AND THOSE WHICH INVOLVED COMPLAINTS FROM ONE PARTNER.

+AFTER AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM IS MADE, A CASE WORKER, WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN EXPERIENCED SOCIAL WORKER, LOOKS INTO THE MATTER IN DEPTH,+ MR. FUNG SAID.

+HE USUALLY ARRANGES A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH THE CLIENT, JOINT INTERVIEWS WITH ALL INVOLVED PARTIES PRESENT, AND MAKE HOME VISITS TO GAIN A DEEPER INSIGHT INTO THE CLIENT'S PROBLEMS.

+IT OFTEN TURNS OUT THAT THE INITIAL COMPLAINT MAY NOT BE THE REAL PROBLEM THREATENING TO RUIN A MARRIAGE,+ HE ADDED. +AFTER A SERIES OF COUNSELLINGS, A COUPLE MAY GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND LOOK AT THEM FROM A TOTALLING DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT.+

MR. FUNG SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM FACING A CASEWORKER WAS HOW TO GAIN THE RESPECT AND TRUST OF THE CLIENT. +VERY OFTEN IT IS THE CASE OF A YOUNG, UNMARRIED CASE WORKER GIVING ADVICE ON COMPLICATED MARITAL PROBLEMS TO A MUCH OLDER AND EXPERIENCED COUPLE,+ HE SAID.

+THE CASE WORKER MUST FIRST CONVINCHE HIS CLIENTS THAT HIS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CAN HELP TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, JUST AS A YOUNG DOCTOR CAN CURE AN OLD MAN BECAUSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE.

+THE RATE OF AMICABLE SETTLEMENTS BEING REACHED AFTER THE DIVISION'S COUNSELLING SERVICE IS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HIGHLY SATISFACTORY,+ HE ADDED.

+HOPELESS CASES, WHERE COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE IN VAIN, ARE REFERRED TO THE MEDIATION UNIT OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FOR EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO DIVORCE,+ HE SAID.

/OUR DIVISION

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+OUR DIVISION CAN ALSO ARRANGE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN OR OLD PEOPLE AFFECTED IN A DISPUTE TO BE TEMPORARILY HOUSED IN THE APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS, WHENEVER THERE IS A NEED FOR IT,+ MR. FUNG SAID. +IMMEDIATE CASH RELIEF CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.+

AS FROM MAY THIS YEAR, THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION HAS CENTRALISED COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR ALL MARITAL PROBLEMS, WHICH ALSO USED TO BE AVAILABLE FROM THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

ADVICE ON MARRIAGE PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER FAMILY MATTERS RANGING FROM PROBLEM GIRLS TO ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S FOUR DISTRICT OFFICES AND NINE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES ESTABLISHED ALL OVER HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. SUCH SERVICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM A NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY FAMILY SERVICE AGENCIES.

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ACTING CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SERVICES
COMMISSION APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR. JOHN J. SWAINE AS THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION DURING THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF SIR RONALD HOLMES.

SIR RONALD, WHO LEAVES HONG KONG ON JULY 8 FOR TWO MONTHS VACATION, IS EXPECTED TO RETURN AT THE END OF AUGUST.

MR. SWAINE, WHO WILL FILL IN THE GAP DURING SIR RONALD'S ABSENCE, WAS FIRST APPOINTED TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION AS A TEMPORARY MEMBER IN MAY 1974 AND BECAME A PERMANENT MEMBER TWO MONTHS LATER.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME
CAMPING REMAINS MOST POPULAR ACTIVITY

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THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WILL TAKE PART IN CAMPS BEING ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED \$514,050 FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AS A DONATION TOWARDS FINANCING SOME OF ITS SUMMER ACTIVITIES, WITH THE REMAINDER COMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S CONTRIBUTION REPRESENTS A 15 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S DONATION. THIS HAS ENABLED 583 SCHOOLS TO BE GIVEN SEPARATE ALLOCATIONS.

CAMPING REMAINS THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITY AMONG YOUNGER AND OLDER PUPILS. THIS YEAR, 4,653 CHILDREN, ACCOMPANIED BY 331 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND 6,874 PUPILS, ACCOMPANIED BY 429 SECONDARY TEACHERS, WILL BE OUT CAMPING FOR A FEW DAYS DURING JULY AND AUGUST.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS HELPING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, BY MAKING AVAILABLE, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, CHOICE SITES IN RURAL AREAS FOR SCHOOL FORESTRY WORK CAMPS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOR SIX DAYS IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, AND TO WORK IN BEAUTIFUL AND INTERESTING SURROUNDINGS WHILE THEY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN SUPERVISED MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THEIR OWN EDUCATION AND THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING NEGLECTED, AND THERE WILL BE ONE-DAY CAMPS FOR THEM TO BE HELD AT THE LIFE CLUB TRAINING HEADQUARTERS, REPULSE BAY.

THERE WILL BE +CAMPS IN REVERSE,+ A SCHEME BY WHICH RURAL CHILDREN ARE BROUGHT TO THE DIOCESAN YOUTH CENTRE, IN POK FU LAM, FOR FIVE DAYS OF VISITS TO WELL-KNOWN URBAN LANDMARKS, INTERSPERSED WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH, AS COUNTRY CHILDREN, THEY DO NOT HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S VARIED PROGRAMME WILL ALSO INCLUDE A +LEARN-TO-SWIM+ SCHEME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND SUMMER COURSES FOR CANDIDATES OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME WHO WISH TO MAKE FULL USE OF THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BRONZE, SILVER, AND GOLD AWARDS.

A NEW PROJECT BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR WILL CONSIST OF SUMMER CLASSES FOR FOLK DANCING. THE IDEA IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS TO MEET AND TO ENJOY GOOD FELLOWSHIP THROUGH DANCING.

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WELFARE SERVICES TO BE EXTENDED TO
FUTURE HOUSING ESTATES
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WELFARE FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED IN FOUR LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

PREMISES FOR USE BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE PROVIDED AT LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN, LAI KING AND KWAI SHING ESTATES IN KWAI CHUNG AND HING WAH ESTATE ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

APPLICATIONS FROM VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES WHICH MAY BE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING THEIR SERVICES TO THESE ESTATES ARE NOW ACCEPTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID, +THE TYPES OF SERVICES ENVISAGED IN THESE ESTATES ARE THOSE WHICH WILL BE OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO THE RESIDENTS SUCH AS CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES OR NURSERIES.

+THESE SERVICES, + HE ADDED, +WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY IF THEY FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG.+

HOWEVER, OTHER SERVICES FOR THE POPULATION GENERALLY, SUCH AS REHABILITATION CENTRES OR HOSTELS, WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

APPLICATIONS SETTING OUT DETAILS OF PROJECT PROPOSALS INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF SPACE REQUIRED, THE NUMBER OF STAFF AND THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES SHOULD REACH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF JULY AT THE LATEST.

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CHILDREN ESSAY CONTEST
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YOUNGSTERS IN TSUEN WAN WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR WRITING SKILL IN A CHINESE ESSAY COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE KIT CHING CLUB OF THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER THE AGE OF 15 YEARS.

CONTESTANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WRITE A CHINESE ESSAY OF AT LEAST 350 WORDS ON ONE OF THE TWO TOPICS - 'AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT' OR 'WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED BY PARTICIPATING IN SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES'.

ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE BEFORE JULY 15 AND PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SIX BEST ENTRIES.

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WATER CHARGES COLLECTION CENTRES IN N.T.
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TWO TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES FOR WATER CHARGES WILL BE SET UP IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENABLE RESIDENTS THERE TO PAY THEIR BILLS FOR THE FIRST PERIOD OF 1975.

THE SHEUNG SHUI COLLECTION CENTRE AT THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IN SHEK WU HUI WILL OPERATE ON JULY 8 AND 9, WHILE THE FANLING CENTRE AT FANLING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE IN LUEN WO HUI WILL OPEN ON JULY 10 AND 11. BOTH CENTRES WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 1 P.M.

RESIDENTS IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE SPECIALLY SET UP FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CHAI WAN AND SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON THURSDAY (JULY 3).

THE FIVE-HOUR CUT AT CHAI WAN STARTING AT 1 A.M. IS TO ENABLE A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE 399, CHAI WAN ROAD= 8-12 ON YIP STREET= 1-9 SUN YIP STREET, INCLUDING THE CALTEX SERVICE FILLING STATION, CMB GARAGE AND CHAI WAN RESITE AREA.

THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IN SHA TIN BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. IS TO ENABLE THE DIVERSION OF A WATER PIPE TO BE CARRIED OUT.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES AT THE NORTH OF TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN TAI WAI ROAD AND LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD INCLUDING ON TING TERRACE, SHA TIN POLICE STATION, THE HOME OF THE AGED, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, CALTEX AND MOBIL FILLING STATIONS, TUNG LO WAN VILLAGE, PAK TIN VILLAGE AND THOSE VILLAS AT TAO FUNG SHAN ROAD AND LOK ON ROAD.

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