HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, April 9, 1973

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Monday, April 9, 1973

FREE HEARING AIDS FOR DEAF CHILDREN

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Special hearing aids will be provided free of charge to children whose hearing is impaired so as to enable them to benefit more fully from ordinary and special education.

A total of 268 hearing aids has been bought for this purpose by the Special Education Section of the Education Department.

The cost of the equipment, which amounted to more than $95,000, was granted through the Government Lotteries Fund.

With the help of the hearing aids, deaf and partially-hearing children will be able to make maximum use of their residual hearing in developing speech and language.

The Special Education Section also provides free audiological services in its Special Education Services Centre at Sir Ellis Kadoorie (Western) Primary School.

Last year, 1,200 children were referred to the Centre by parents, voluntary agencies, clinics, doctors, Social Welfare Department and Medical & Health Department for audiological assessment.

If these children are in need of medical or surgical treatment, they are referred to the government ear, nose and throat specialists for advice and treatment.

Children with severe hearing-impairment are referred to special schools for the deaf.

/At present .....

At present there are three government subsidised and four private special schools for the deaf accommodating 410 and 330 pupils respectively. One of the subsidised special schools provides both primary and secondary school courses.

Children with less severe impairment are referred to special classes for partially-hearing children in ordinary schools. At present there are eight such classes in government primary schools.

Partially-hearing children remain in these special classes for basic subjects, and integrate with normally-hearing children of their own age for cultural subjects.

The aim of these integrated classes is to encourage hearing-impaired children to develop better speech and language, and acquire self-confidence, so that they can become contributing members of society.

Children with mild hearing-impairment are placed in ordinary classes. They are also given free hearing-aids and are under regular supervision by the staff of the Special Education Section.

Like normal children, deaf and partially-hearing children in the Government and government subsidised schools are also enjoying free primary education.

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URBAN COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING

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Note to Editors: This is to remind you that the new Urban Council will hold its first open meeting at 4.00 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

The meeting will be preceeded by an inaugural ceremony at 3.00 p.m., which will be attended by the Governor.

The brief ceremony will include speeches by Sir Murray and the new Council Chairman, Mr. A. de O. Sales.

Sir Murray will also hand over a gavel to the new Chairman.

As local dignitaries are invited to the ceremony, space in the Council Chamber will be very limited. Special arrangements have therefore had to be made for news coverage.

It may be necessary to have only photographers in the Council Chamber and reporters in the room adjoining the Chamber where a loud speaker will be set up to enable them to hear the speeches. This, however, will depend on how many reporters and/or photographers turn up. If possible, everyone will be accommodated in the Chamber.

Your representatives are kindly asked to be at the Urban Council Chamber not later than 2.30 p.m. so that the Urban Services Department's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Gerry Xavier, can explain the special arrangements to them and accommodate them in the best way possible.

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H.K. TO BE REPRESENTED AT ECAFE MEETING

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The Hon. Ann Tse-kai, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, is to lead the Hong Kong delegation to the 29th session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to be held in Tokyo this year.

The session, which begins on Wednesday, will end on Monday, April 23.

During the two-week meeting, a wide range of problems concerning the economic and social development of the region will be discussed.

The other members of the delegation are Mr. E.P. Ho, Director of Commerce and Industry; Mr. J.D. McGregor, Deputy Director of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Thomas Lee Chun-yon, Deputy Director of Social Welfare; Mr. W.Y.H. Kwok, Trade Officer of the Commerce and Industry Department and Miss J.A. Willis, Assistant Secretary, Economic Branch of the Colonial Secretariat.

Hong Kong became an associate member of E.C.A.F.E. in 1947, and since then has played an active part in it.

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Note to Editors: The Hong Kong delegation will leave by air for Tokyo tomorrow (Tuesday, April 10) at 11.45 a.m. by Northwest Airlines Flight No. 4. Mr. Ann will be accompanied by his wife. Mr. E.P. Ho will join Mr. Ann in Tokyo on Monday, April 16.

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TAI O HOUSING SCHEME

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More than 3,000 people will be provided with self-contained housing in Tai O with the completion of the proposed Government Low Cost Housing Estate at Yim Tin.

This was revealed today by Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories, at the opening ceremony of the Tai O Rural Committee Office.

He said that workshop areas would also be formed to enable the development of light industry.

In recent years, Tai O had undergone "a new phase of development" -- from an isolated fishing port into a well-equipped town -- with the provision of new roads, water treatment works, a town hall, and sites for a first secondary school and a playground.

Mr. Bray said that with this fast pace of development "the burden on the shoulders of the Rural Committee is heavy", but he was confident that the Committee would be fully capable of meeting the challenge with the support of the local people.

The building cost of the new Rural Committee Office exceeded $100,000, with the greater part contributed by local residents.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Bray's speech are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes this evening.

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ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS CAMPAIGN 1973

Second Phase Ends With 31,145 Children Immunised

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The second phase of the Anti-Poliomyelitis Campaign 1973 ended on March 31 with 31,145 children immunised.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Medical and Health Department described the total as "satisfactory."

The first phase of the annual campaign was held between December 28, 1972, and February 2, 1973, when 28,149 children were immunised.

The second phase was intended as a follow-up. It began on February 26, and ended at the end of March.

In the last week, 5,428 doses of the anti-polio vaccine were administered - 970 on the Island, 2,951 in Kowloon, and 1,507 in the New Territories.

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PIANO RECITAL

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Top French pianist France Clidat will give a recital at the City Hall Concert Hall on Thursday (April 12) at 8 p.m. under the joint sponsorship of the Urban Council and the Alliance Francaise.

An exponent of Liszt's piano music, she will play a programme mainly consisting of works by Liszt and other pieces by Debussy and Ravel.

Tickets at $3 (for students), $5 and $8 are available daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the City Hall Box Office.

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MORE SPORTS FACILITIES FOR TAKWULING

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Mr. A.N. Savage, District Officer Tai Po and Lieutenant-Colonel P.T. Bowring, Commanding Officer, second battalion 2nd K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles, will jointly officiate at the opening ceremony of two basketball courts at the Sing Ping Public School, Ping Che Road, Takwuling.

The ceremony will take place on Tuesday (April 10) at 2.30 p.m.

The basketball courts were built by the men of the 2/K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles under the Army Community Relations Project Scheme.

Materials which cost approximately $8,000 were supplied by the Education Department and District Office, Tai Po, from their local public works funds.

The addition of the two basket ball courts at the Sing Ping School, which is the principal venue of sports activities in the Takwuling District, will greatly benefit the youths in this remote part of the New Territories where sports facilities are relatively limited.

A friendly match between the Army and a local team will be played following the opening ceremony.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the ceremony covered. Press transport AM2132 will leave Kowloon Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office subpool at 1.15 p.m. on Tuesday (April 10). An officer of Tai Po District Office will be on hand to assist the Press.

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JAPANESE CULTURAL MISSION CALLS ON NEW URBCO CHAIRMAN

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A nine-man Japanese Cultural Exchange Mission called on the new Urban Council Chairman, Mr. A. de O. Sales, at the City Hall today and presented him with a scroll on behalf of the Japanese Government.

The Mission, led by Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, Member of the House of Representatives, is currently on a South Asian tour which has so far taken them to Indonesia, Thailand, Burma and South Vietnam.

It was the first official mission to be received by Mr. Sales as Chairman of the Urban Council.

The Director of Urban Services Department, Mr. D.R.W. Alexander, and the Assistant Director (Cultural Services), Mr. Darwin Chen, were also present to welcome the Mission.

The visitors spent more than an hour at the City Hall looking over its facilities.

Mr. Sales said afterwards that Mr. Miyazawa showed great interest in Hong Kong's cultural activities and he looked forward to more exchange visits by cultural groups.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Sales presented Mr. Miyazawa with an album containing pictures of Hong Kong in 1846.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.