



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1976.

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

EMPLOYERS URGED TO MAKE USE OF PLACEMENT SERVICE

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS CALLED ON EMPLOYERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FREE +RECRUITMENT SERVICE+ FOR EXECUTIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL STAFF OFFERED BY ITS SPECIAL REGISTER.

THE APPEAL CAME FROM THE LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, MR. HOUDINI HO, WHO ALSO URGED EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE BY NOTIFYING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANY VACANCIES IN THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SPECIAL REGISTER WAS SET UP IN DECEMBER 1973 TO HELP HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO HAD OBTAINED DEGREES OR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ABROAD TO FIND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT HERE.

BOTH OVERSEAS AS WELL AS LOCAL GRADUATES CAN PUT THEIR NAMES ON THE REGISTER IF THEY WISH TO MAKE USE OF THIS MEANS OF HELPING THEM FIND EMPLOYMENT.

+BUT THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO TO HELP THEM UNLESS WE KNOW OF JOB VACANCIES IN COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+EMPLOYERS,+ MR. HO STRESSED, +WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THIS SPECIAL SERVICE BECAUSE WE HELP THEM FIND CANDIDATES SUITED TO THEIR REQUIREMENTS. IN ADDITION, THIS SAVES THEM TIME AND MONEY IN HAVING TO ADVERTISE AND IN DEALING WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF APPLICANTS.

+WITH MORE CO-OPERATION FROM PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS, THE SPECIAL REGISTER SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TO HELP YOUNG GRADUATES AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYERS THEMSELVES. IT MIGHT EVEN BE ONE ANSWER TO THE SO-CALLED BRAIN-DRAIN PROBLEM,+ HE ADDED.

REVIEWING THE TWO-YEAR OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL REGISTER, MR. HO SAID HE HAD ASSISTED NEARLY 70 GRADUATES TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT, MOSTLY IN THE ENGINEERING AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS.

THE MAJORITY OF THE 1,000 ODD APPLICANTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED WERE OVERSEAS STUDENTS, MAINLY GRADUATES OF BRITISH, AMERICAN, CANADIAN, AUSTRALIAN, AND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN UNIVERSITIES. SOME 360 WERE FROM THE TWO LOCAL UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING SOME FROM THE POLYTECHNIC.

EMPLOYERS CONTACTED BY THE SERVICES IN THE SAME PERIOD SUPPLIED A TOTAL OF 220 VACANCIES, WHICH WERE FOUND TO MATCH THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF 600 JOB-SEEKERS ON THE REGISTER.

AFTER FURTHER SELECTION BY INTERVIEW, 68 OF THEM WERE SUCCESSFUL, OR ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE VACANCIES OFFERED WERE FILLED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE SERVICE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1976

- 2 -

COMMENTING ON THE APPARENTLY LOW SUCCESS RATE, MR. HO SAID: +COMPETITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN KEEN IN THE JOB MARKET, AND APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN NOT ONLY TO THOSE GRADUATES INTRODUCED THROUGH THE SERVICE. IN CERTAIN CASES EMPLOYERS PREFERRED THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE TO FRESH GRADUATES.+

+ONE OTHER REASON IS THE RECESSION WHICH HAS REDUCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSEQUENTLY THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE NEW VACANCIES IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER MR. HO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SITUATION WOULD TAKE A TURN FOR THE BETTER THIS YEAR AND THAT MORE OPPORTUNITIES WOULD LIKELY BE CREATED FOR GRADUATES.

HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT BETTER TIMES WOULD COME IN MARCH AND APRIL. +THIS IS BECAUSE MANY FIRMS AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS WISH TO ATTRACT THE BETTER CANDIDATES BEFORE OTHERS HAVE GRABBED THEM ON THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET.+

THE FACT THAT NEARLY 700 GRADUATES ARE STILL ON THE SPECIAL REGISTER DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THEY ARE ALL UNEMPLOYED.

+MANY OF THEM HAVE, THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS, OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT BUT HAVE NOT CANCELLED THEIR REGISTRATION.

+OTHERS MAY ALREADY BE HOLDING A JOB BUT HAVE REGISTERED TO SCOUT AROUND FOR BETTER PROSPECTS,+ MR. HO SAID.

RECORDS SHOWED THAT 55 OUT OF THE 68 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS RECEIVED A STARTING SALARY OF OVER \$1,000 A MONTH.

TWENTY-TWO EARNED BETWEEN \$1,000 AND \$1,500, 17 BETWEEN \$1,500 AND \$2,000 AND 16 BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$2,500.

MR. HO WENT ON TO SAY THAT EVERY MONTH, SOME 200-300 ENQUIRIES WERE SENT TO COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FIRMS, AND OFFICERS PAID PERSONAL CALLS ON SOME 40 TO 50 LARGER ORGANISATIONS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON VACANCIES WHICH MIGHT BE COMING UP.

DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF 1975, HE SAID, LETTERS WERE CIRCULATED TO 1,200 FIRMS AND FACTORIES EACH EMPLOYING MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE, EXPLAINING THE FREE SERVICE OF THE SPECIAL REGISTER AND HOW EMPLOYERS COULD HELP THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THE GRADUATES.

+BUT IT IS DISCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT ONLY A HANDFUL OF THEM RESPONDED AND INFORMED US OF NINE VACANCIES. HOWEVER, WE WILL REPEAT THIS EXERCISE FROM TIME TO TIME TO PUBLICISE THE ~~JOB~~ PLACEMENT SERVICE.

/+FURTHERMORE,

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1976

- 3 -

+FURTHERMORE, OUR STAFF HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSIGNED TO SCAN NEWSPAPER COLUMNS EVERY DAY TO SEE THAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES SUITABLE FOR THE APPLICANTS ON THE REGISTER ARE NOT MISSED,+ HE SAID.

MR. HO ADDED THAT GRADUATES WITH DIFFICULTY FINDING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT COULD CONTACT THE SPECIAL REGISTER AT NEW RODNEY BLOCK, 99 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG, TELEPHONE 5-282523, EXTENSIONS 87 AND 94.

GRADUATING STUDENTS IN BRITAIN CAN REGISTER THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT SERVICE OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON.

THOSE IN AMERICA AND EUROPE CAN SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OFFICES STATIONED IN MAJOR CITIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -