



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1976

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SURVEY SHOWS CONSIDERABLE DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT

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A SAMPLE SURVEY CONDUCTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SHOWED THERE WERE AT THAT TIME 107,000 UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

THIS NUMBER REPRESENTED 5.6 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE.

THESE FIGURES COMPARE WITH THOSE OF 177,000 AND 9.1 PER CENT DERIVING FROM A SIMILAR SURVEY CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, THOSE WHO WERE AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 64 AND WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT BUT WERE LOOKING FOR WORK WERE TAKEN TO BE UNEMPLOYED, WHILE THOSE WHO HAD WORKED FOR MORE THAN 15 HOURS IN THE SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY DATE WERE TAKEN TO BE EMPLOYED.

THE COMMISSIONER DREW ATTENTION TO THE VARIATION IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE DEFINITION OF +UNEMPLOYED+ AND +LABOUR FORCE+. IN HONG KONG +UNEMPLOYED+ INCLUDED PEOPLE WHO HAD JUST LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO REALLY HAD NOT HAD MUCH OF A CHANCE TO PICK UP A JOB= WHO HAD JUST, BUT ONLY JUST, TAKEN UP WORK= WHO HAD TEMPORARILY, BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY, BEEN LAID OFF WORK AND PEOPLE WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WHO WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD. ON THE OTHER HAND, AMONG THE EMPLOYED WERE SUCH PEOPLE AS HAWKERS AND UNPAID FAMILY WORKERS WHO WOULD TAKE UP OTHER JOBS WHEN THEY BECAME AVAILABLE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DECEMBER 1975 FIGURES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE 8.3 PER CENT AND 5.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. ADJUSTING, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE LATEST HONG KONG FIGURE TO THE U.S.A. BASIS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HERE WAS REPRESENTED BY A FIGURE OF 4.3 PER CENT.

THE COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED THE DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT DURING THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD AS CONSIDERABLE. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER INDICATORS, IN RELATION FOR EXAMPLE TO EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE, WHICH GAVE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM AS TO THE STATE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED FROM THE RECENT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT REGULAR SIX MONTHLY INTERVALS. THERE WOULD NOT BE A PARTICULAR SURVEY IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR BECAUSE THE 1976 BY-CENSUS WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE. HOWEVER, THE SURVEY ROUTINE WOULD RE-COMMENCE IN MARCH 1977.

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IMPORTANCE OF FUND RAISING STRESSED
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THE WILLINGNESS OF A COMMUNITY TO GIVE, AND TO ORGANISE ITSELF TO DO SO, IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ITS HEALTH AS A COMMUNITY AND A MOST PRACTICAL FORM OF PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNITED FUND RAISING FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES. THE FOUR-DAY MEETING IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG AT THE FURAMA HOTEL.

FOR THIS REASON, SIR MURRAY SAID, FUND RAISING AND THE TECHNIQUES OF FUND RAISING HAVE A VITAL FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL PART TO PLAY.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH:

+MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

+I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN WELCOMING YOU TO THIS THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNITED FUND RAISING FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES. FUND RAISING AND UNITED FUND RAISING PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIFE OF HONG KONG. WE THEREFORE GREATLY WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY THIS FORUM GIVES US TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES AND LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.

+AS HONG KONG GREW AND AS REQUIREMENTS EXPANDED SO TOO DID THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WITH THEIR COMMON GOALS BUT ALSO THEIR COMPETITION FOR DONATED FUNDS. IT WAS TO MEET THIS SITUATION THAT THE COMMUNITY CHEST WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1968 TO OFFER A STRONG UNITED FUND RAISING ORGANISATION.

+A FEW VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE PREFERRED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE CHEST AND SOME OF THESE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE CHARITIES, RAISE VERY SIGNIFICANT SUMS AND PLAY A VITAL ROLE OVER A WIDE FIELD OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. NEVERTHELESS THE COMMUNITY CHEST HAS NOW ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS THE PRINCIPAL UNITED FUND RAISING ORGANISATION. IT HAS SOUGHT WITH SOME SUCCESS TO INVOLVE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF BOTH RICH AND POOR IN THE PROCESS OF FUND RAISING, AND IT IS THE PRINCIPAL PROVIDER OF SUBSCRIBED CHARITABLE FUNDS. I AM SURE THAT ITS EXPERIENCE AND THE TECHNIQUES IT EMPLOYS WILL FIGURE AMONG THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE HONG KONG DELEGATION CAN MAKE TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS CONFERENCE.

/+SOME PEOPLE

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+SOME PEOPLE ARGUE THAT WITH THE ASSUMPTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, AND WITH THE VAST SUMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF FUND RAISING ORGANISATIONS, THE LATTER HAVE NO LONGER A USEFUL PART TO PLAY. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. WITH EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS, RISING COSTS, AND THE STEADY REDUCTION OF DONATIONS FROM ABROAD, THE PURELY FINANCIAL IMPORTANCE OF FUND RAISING IS VERY GREAT INDEED AND THERE IS A CONSTANT REQUIREMENT FOR HIGHER TARGETS AND EVEN MORE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS. BUT ALSO THE WILLINGNESS OF A COMMUNITY TO GIVE, AND TO ORGANISE ITSELF TO DO SO, IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ITS HEALTH AS A COMMUNITY AND A MOST PRACTICAL FORM OF PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE. FOR BOTH THESE REASONS IN HONG KONG, AS I AM SURE IN OTHER COMMUNITIES HERE REPRESENTED, FUND RAISING AND THE TECHNIQUES OF FUND RAISING HAVE A VITAL FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL PART TO PLAY. AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF PAYING MY TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO DEVOTE THEIR TIME AND INGENUITY AND MONEY TO THIS PURPOSE.

+I WISH YOU ALL A FRUITFUL AND ENJOYABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNITED FUND RAISING.+

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''MEET THE MEDIA'' SESSION
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

A ''MEET THE MEDIA'' SESSION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (MAY 20) AT 4 P.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR. BRIAN WILSON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MEETING. TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUERS TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN UK
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FIVE OFFICERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 19) TO RECEIVE ADVANCED TRAINING IN MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE AND MOUNTAINS CRAFT.

THE TRAINING, LASTING ABOUT TWO MONTHS, WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SCOTLAND AND NORTH WALES WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE RAF LAND RESCUE SERVICE AND THE UK CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR PHYSICAL RECREATION.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME CAS MOUNTAIN RESCUERS ARE SENT ABROAD FOR FURTHER TRAINING.

A CAS SPOKESMAN SAID : +AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE GO HIKING AND MOUNTAINEERING THESE DAYS, THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WILL INEVITABLY GO UP.

+THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CAS SHOULD BE TRAINED IN THE MOST MODERN TECHNIQUES IN ORDER TO COPE WITH ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION WHICH MIGHT ARISE.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE OFFICERS, ON COMPLETION OF THEIR TRAINING, WILL PASS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF CAS AND ORGANISE COURSES FOR YOUTH LEADERS IN MOUNTAIN CRAFT.

AT PRESENT, THE CAS HAS A MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, CONSISTING OF 56 MEMBERS. THEY ARE TRAINED TO RESCUE PEOPLE WHO ARE INJURED, TRAPPED OR BECOME LOST ON MOUNTAINS. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE TAUGHT HOW TO RESCUE SURVIVORS FROM AIR CRASHES IN REMOTE AREAS.

ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, VOLUNTEERS FROM THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT ARE ON STANDBY DUTY AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE AT 204, ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON FROM 10 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M. THEY CAN BE CONTACTED ON TELEPHONE NOS. 3-015011 OR 3-016030.

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BUILDING FIGURES FOR APRIL 1976

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A TOTAL OF 56 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED LAST MONTH BY THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 35 DURING APRIL LAST YEAR.

OF THE NEW PLANS APPROVED, 22 WERE FOR BUILDING ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN FOR KOWLOON AND 27 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR 13 MULTI-STOREY BLOCKS FOR THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY'S "CHO YIU CHUEN HOUSING ESTATE" AT KWAI CHUNG, A HOME FOR THE AGED AT FANLING, AND TWO 29-STOREY APARTMENT BLOCKS AT TAI KOO DOCKYARD.

BUILDING PLANS FOR A NUMBER OF 15-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS AT KWUN TONG WERE ALSO APPROVED, AS WELL AS PLANS FOR A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING AT TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING APRIL THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$75.64 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$146.43 MILLION FOR MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO 604,752 SQ. FT., COMPRISING 232,233 SQ. FT. OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 372,519 SQ. FT. OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE B.O.O. GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 50 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING ONE COMMERCIAL/APARTMENT BUILDING WITH 200 FLATS AT SHEK PAI WAN ROAD AND TWO COMMERCIAL MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT.

FORTY-SIX COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH. THESE INCLUDED THE SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S WELFARE RECREATIONAL CENTRE, THREE SCHOOL BUILDINGS, AND A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING AT SMITHFIELD ROAD AND POKFIELD ROAD.

THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO CONSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 24 BUILDINGS.

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WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS SWORN-IN

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY PRAISED THE EASTERN DISTRICT WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF THE CLUB'S OFFICE-BEARERS, MR. LEE SAID SINCE THE CLUB WAS ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS AGO, IT HAS BECOME A WELL-FOUNDED AND ACTIVE VOLUNTARY WELFARE ORGANISATION THROUGH THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION OF ITS LEADERS OVER THE YEARS.

MR. LEE NOTED THAT AMONG THE MANY SERVICES IT PROVIDES FOR THE COMMUNITY, THE CLUB HAS SET UP A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CHAI WAN AND A NON-PROFIT-MAKING NURSERY IN NORTH POINT.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE CLUB ALSO PROVIDES AND ARRANGES A GREAT VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH THE YOUNG AND OLD IN THE DISTRICT.

MRS. LEE, WIFE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT TO THE CLUB'S OFFICE-BEARERS.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT TSUEN WAN

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL VISIT TSUEN WAN ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 19), ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES.

SIR MURRAY WILL SPEND ABOUT FOUR HOURS IN THE TOWN, DURING WHICH HE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

THE GOVERNOR WILL ALSO MEET CHAIRMEN OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND HOLD TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF TSUEN WAN AND TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE TSUEN WAN TRADE ASSOCIATION.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE TSUEN WAN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT NO. 277 SHA TSUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN, WHICH IS DUE TO BEGIN AT 12.15 P.M. MR. DONALD STRANGE, OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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