



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1987

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RESTORATION OF FRENCH MISSION BUILDING

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A NEW CHAPTER WILL BE ADDED TO THE COLOURFUL HISTORY OF THE FRENCH MISSION BUILDING NEXT MONTH WHEN IT IS TAKEN OVER THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1916 AND 1919 BY THE FRENCH MISSIONS ETRANGERES, THE FRENCH COLONIAL-STYLE STRUCTURE WAS LAST OCCUPIED BY VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT UNTIL DECEMBER LAST YEAR. IT THEN UNDERWENT A FIVE-MONTH FITTING-OUT PROGRAMME DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR BILL GREAVES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ANTIQUITIES SECTION SAID THE ELEGANT THREE-STORY BUILDING BEHIND THE ISD HEADQUARTERS IN BEACONSFIELD HOUSE WAS GRADED I ON THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD'S LIST OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, MEANING THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PRESERVE IT.

FOR THIS REASON, OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKEN TO INCLUDE IN THE \$5.9 MILLION PROGRAMME, WHICH BEGAN ON MARCH 1, A VALUABLE AMOUNT OF RESTORATION, IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL FITTING-OUT WORK FOR ISD.

"FORTUNATELY, THE ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING SUITS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW OCCUPANTS AND THIS HAS ENABLED US TO CARRY OUT MUCH OF THE RESTORATION WORK TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH CONSERVATIONISTS AND ITS END USERS.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE IMPRESSIVE DOMED CHAPEL ON THE FIRST FLOOR, WHICH FORMED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE ORIGINAL MISSION, IS TO BE OPENED UP, RESTORED AND USED AS THE CONFERENCE ROOM," MR GREAVES SAID.

OTHER WORK INCLUDES REMOVAL OF THE UNSIGHTLY AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT, EXPOSURE OF THE ORIGINAL MAHOGANY AND TILED FLOORING, REMOVAL OF LATER PARTITIONING WHERE POSSIBLE AND A COMPLETE REDECORATION IN MORE SYMPATHETIC COLOURS.

THE NEW OCCUPANTS WILL BE THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY AND THE PUBLISHING AND PROMOTIONS SUB-DIVISIONS, WHICH ARE NOW SCATTERED IN THREE SEPARATE LEASED LOCATIONS. THE MOVE WOULD BRING ALL MAJOR ISD ACTIVITIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITS DEPARTMENTAL UNITS, IN ONE CENTRALISED LOCATION ADJACENT TO HEADQUARTERS.

THE ONLY OTHER NEW OCCUPANT WILL BE THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN A ONE-YEAR TENANCY OF THE SPACIOUS BASEMENT FOR OFFICES.

THE BUILDING, AT NO. 1, BATTERY PATH, OCCUPIES ONE OF THE FIRST DEVELOPED SITES IN CENTRAL, HAVING BEEN BOUGHT IN 1842 BY THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF TRADE, MR A.R. JOHNSTON.

/FROM 1843 .....

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FROM 1843 TO 1846, JOHNSTON'S HOUSE WAS OCCUPIED BY HONG KONG'S FIRST TWO GOVERNORS, SIR HENRY POTTINGER, AND SIR JOHN DAVIS. IT IS SAID OWING TO THE NOISE FROM THE ADJOINING MURRAY BARRACKS, SIR JOHN MOVED FROM JOHNSTON'S HOUSE INTO NEW ACCOMMODATION PUT UP BY THE MAGISTRATE, MR W. CAINE, ON THE SITE OF TODAY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL. THE BUILDING THEN BECAME THE TERRITORY'S COURTHOUSE.

FROM 1846 TO ITS DEMOLITION 70 YEARS LATER, THE ORIGINAL BUILDING WAS IN TURN OCCUPIED BY TRADERS A. HEARD & COMPANY, THE FINANCIER, EMANUEL BELILIOS (WHO RENAMED THE BUILDING "BEACONSFIELD"), HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK JUNIOR STAFF MESS AND THE RUSSIAN CONSULATE.

ON MAY 22, 1915, THE SITE WAS PURCHASED FROM BELILIOS BY THE MISSIONS ETRANGERES DE PARIS FOR \$90,000 AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRECNCH MISSION BUILDING BEGAN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. ALTHOUGH THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE WAS LAID ON MARCH 24, 1917, THE BUILDING WAS NOT FINALLY COMPLETED UNTIL 1919, WHEN IT BEGAN SERVICE AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE FOR THE ORGANISATION.

JUST PRIOR TO THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION, IT WAS OFFERED TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR TEMPORARY USE BY THE BROADCASTING AND EVACUATION DEPARTMENTS. AFTER THE WAR, IT WAS USED AS A HOSTEL, SUBSEQUENTLY BEING BOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR \$2.8 MILLION AND CONVERTED TO OFFICES FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

IN FEBRUARY, 1968, IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE JUDICIARY WHICH USED IT TO HOUSE VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AND, FROM JULY, 1978, TO OCTOBER, 1984, THE SUPREME COURT. IT WAS THEN REVERTED TO VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT UNTIL LAST DECEMBER.

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WAN CHAI DB TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER

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WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AND WILL MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR SUITABLE THEMES FOR SPECIAL STAMP ISSUES IN 1989.

/IN ADDITION, .....

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IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS CAUSED BY ASBESTOS EMITTED BY VEHICLE REPAIR WORKSHOPS IN WAN CHAI; SETTING UP OF A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HANDLE PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY; PENSION FOR STAFF OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, AND THE SALE OF HORMONE-IMPLANTED CHICKENS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE SETTING UP OF THE HONG KONG AND ISLANDS DIVISION BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, AND THE PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987.

OTHER ITEMS INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES, DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, AND AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 201 HENNESSY ROAD, 8TH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, WAN CHAI.

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WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS ON COMPUTER TEACHING  
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A TWO-WEEK SUMMER INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND TWO SEMINARS ON COMPUTER CONTROL TECHNOLOGY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN AUGUST.

THE WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE INSTITUTE AT PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 21ST FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK, BETWEEN AUGUST 10 TO 21.

THE WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED TO FAMILIARISE TEACHERS WITH THE USE OF MICRO-COMPUTERS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING, AND TO ENABLE THEM TO MAKE USE OF COMPUTERS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING.

/PARTICIPANTS WILL .....

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PARTICIPANTS WILL GAIN HANDS-ON COMPUTER EXPERIENCE, AND THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WILL LEARN THE USES OF THE COMPUTER FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION BEFORE JUNE 17.

THE TWO SEMINARS ON COMPUTER CONTROL TECHNOLOGY WITH EMPHASIS ON COMPUTER INTERFACE WILL BE HELD AT THE COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 19 HOK YUEN STREET, HUNG HOM, ON AUGUST 15 AND 22.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH COMPUTER INTERFACE PROJECTS. THIS WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANTS TO HAVE A BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN COMPUTER AND BASIC PROGRAMMING.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE ONE TEACHER EACH TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (COMPUTER EDUCATION), COMPUTER EDUCATION CENTRE, BEFORE JUNE 24.

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SUBSIDISED LENDING COURSES FOR BANKING STAFF  
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THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS INVITED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO CONDUCT A BASIC LENDING COURSE FOR JUNIOR BANKING STAFF.

THE ONE-WEEK INTENSIVE COURSE FROM JULY 6 IS DESIGNED FOR STAFF WHO HAVE TAKEN UP CREDIT AND LENDING WORK WITHOUT FORMAL TRAINING IN LENDING.

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD HAVE ABOUT TWO YEARS BANKING EXPERIENCE AND ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF ACCOUNTANCY.

COURSE FEE IS \$550 A PERSON. THE COUNCIL WILL REIMBURSE HALF OF THE FEE TO PARTICIPANTS IF THEY ARE RECOMMENDED TO JOIN THE COURSE BY EMPLOYERS AND BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE COURSE WITH AN ATTENDANCE RECORD OF NOT LESS THAN 80 PER CENT.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JUNE 25. FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE COURSE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, MR S.M. WOO, ON 5-8932341 EXT. 255.

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DB TO SUPPORT PITCHING-IN CAMPAIGN

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TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORY-WIDE PITCHING-IN TO KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN A CLEANUP ACTIVITY ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 17) AT 993-997 KING'S ROAD.

A REFUSE COLLECTION VAN WILL DRIVE INTO THE COMMON COURTYARD OF THE BUILDING, WHERE URBAN COUNCILLORS, MR MAN SAI-CHEONG, MRS CHOW CHEUNG WAI-PING AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MRS BETTY YUNG, WILL PITCH-IN AND DUMP REFUSE INTO THE VAN.

THE BLOCK-TO-BLOCK CLEAN UP OPERATION STARTED IN THE DISTRICT ON MAY 18 WILL LAST UNTIL JUNE 26 URGING LOCAL RESIDENTS TO KEEP THEIR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PITCHING-IN ACTIVITY OF KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMON COURTYARD OF TAK LEE, PO LEE AND WAI LEE BUILDINGS AT 993-997 KING'S ROAD AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 17).

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MUSICAL TREAT FOR TUEN MUN RESIDENTS

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THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL GIVE A FREE CONCERT AT 8 PM ON JUNE 20 (SATURDAY) IN THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, SIU HONG COURT.

DURING THE CONCERT, THE CHOIR WILL JOIN THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MUSICIANS LTD. IN PERFORMING A NUMBER OF POPULAR WORKS.

FREE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ALL SUB-OFFICES OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR SAI KUNG SWIMMING GALA  
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SAI KUNG RESIDENTS AND OTHER SWIMMING ENTHUSIASTS ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE 1987 SAI KUNG DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA TO BE HELD ON JULY 12 (SUNDAY) IN THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, AT TUI MIN HOI.

THE SWIMMING GALA IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE SAI KUNG SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD.

THE FIRST EVENT WILL START AT 9 AM AND THE LAST RACE WILL BE AT 3 PM.

THE MEN'S DIVISION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS AND THE WOMEN'S INTO THREE, ACCORDING TO THE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS.

WINNERS WHO ARE SAI KUNG RESIDENTS WILL REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS SWIMMING COMPETITION.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JULY 4. FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (SAI KUNG OFFICE), BOTH IN SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET; OR THE SAI KUNG SPORTS ASSOCIATION, 16 PO TUNG ROAD, SAI KUNG.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON 3-2814149.

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IMPROVEMENT TO FIRE HYDRANTS  
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE FIRE HYDRANTS OF PRINCESS MARGARET AND KWAI CHUNG HOSPITALS.

THE WORK INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF TWO FIRE SERVICE TANKS, EACH WITH A CAPACITY OF 115,000 LITRES, AND A PUMP ROOM WHICH WILL MEASURE ABOUT 40 SQUARE METRES.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS CALLING FOR TENDERS BY NOON ON JULY 3.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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