



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1979

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GOVERNOR OPENS ARTS FESTIVAL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING THAT +SIX YEARS AFTER THE FIRST FESTIVAL OF ARTS WE CAN LOOK BACK WITH SATISFACTION ON HOW POPULAR THE ARTS IN HONG KONG HAVE BECOME.+

SIR MURRAY WAS SPEAKING AT THE GALA OPENING OF THE 1979 ARTS FESTIVAL IN THE CONCERT HALL, CITY HALL.

SIR MURRAY ADDED: +NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEVENTH FESTIVAL WE CAN LOOK FORWARD OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE ARTS IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP WITH ALL THE ADDITIONAL PLEASURE AND DIVERSITY OF INTEREST IT WILL BRING TO SO MANY PEOPLE.

+THIS SIX YEARS SHOULD SEE MORE PLACES IN WHICH THE ARTS CAN BE SEEN -- IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN, BUT ABOVE ALL AT TSIM SHA TSUI.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S YOUTH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SCHEME WILL EXPAND AND ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG TALENT AND I HOPE, OUR OWN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC WILL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED.+

EARLIER IN THE EVENING SIR MURRAY WAS RECEIVED BY SIR SUN RUN SHAW, CHAIRMAN OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY, AT EDINBURGH PLACE WHERE HE DOTTED THE EYES OF A LION.

SIR MURRAY ALSO CHATTED TO A GROUP OF +FANCY DRESS+ COMPETITORS IN AN OPEN AIR YOUTH BALL WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY A LARGE CROWD.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF SIR MURRAY'S SPEECH:

+AS SIR RUN RUN HAS SAID, SIX YEARS AFTER THE FIRST FESTIVAL OF ARTS WE CAN LOOK BACK WITH SATISFACTION ON HOW POPULAR THE ARTS IN HONG KONG HAVE BECOME. WHAT WAS ONCE THE LUXURY OF COMPARATIVELY FEW HAS REALLY BECOME THE PLEASURE OF VERY MANY.

+NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEVENTH FESTIVAL WE CAN LOOK FORWARD OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE ARTS IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP WITH ALL THE ADDITIONAL PLEASURE AND DIVERSITY OF INTEREST IT WILL BRING TO SO MANY PEOPLE.

+THIS SIX YEARS SHOULD SEE MORE PLACES IN WHICH THE ARTS CAN BE SEEN -- IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN, BUT ABOVE ALL AT TSIM SHA TSUI.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S YOUTH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SCHEME WILL EXPAND AND ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG TALENT AND I HOPE, OUR OWN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC WILL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED.

+THE URBAN COUNCIL, I AM SURE, WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE AND REACH OUT TO NEW HORIZONS WITH ITS USUAL PROFESSIONALISM, THE ARTS CENTRE WILL PLAY ITS OWN SPECIAL AND ORIGINAL ROLE AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN BE RELIED ON TO PLAY ITS PART.

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+THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE ARTS IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN, AND SHOULD BE, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND ENTHUSIASM ON THE ONE HAND AND OFFICIAL SUPPORT ON THE OTHER. SO LONG AS THE MANY ORGANISATIONS CONTINUE TO CO-OPERATE AND CO-ORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE ARTS WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND FLOURISH IN HONG KONG TO THE BENEFIT OF ITS PEOPLE AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF ITS REPUTATION IN THE ARTISTIC WORLD.

+THE ARTS FESTIVAL HAS PLAYED A VERY SPECIAL ROLE IN THIS, AND IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE I DECLARE THIS SEVENTH HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS OPEN.+

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243 BUILDING PROPOSALS RECEIVED

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BETWEEN OCTOBER AND THE END OF LAST YEAR A TOTAL OF 243 PLANS FOR 271 BUILDINGS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE PLANS COVERED DESIGNS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD 357 BUILDINGS WERE INSPECTED. AS A RESULT OF THESE INSPECTIONS 445 CLOSURE AND EVACUATION NOTICES WERE SERVED.

+THIS COMPARES WITH 249 INSPECTIONS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE SERVICE OF 144 NOTICES.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR THE NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS AND RESUBMISSIONS TO THE B.O.O. TOTALLED 3,300.

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TRIAL SCHEME FOR DISABLED CHILDREN GOING WELL
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AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME, WHICH ENABLES DISABLED CHILDREN TO MIX WITH NORMAL CHILDREN IN DAY NURSERIES AS PART OF THEIR SOCIAL REHABILITATION PROCESS, HAS BEEN GOING WELL.

A 10TH NURSERY HAS JUST JOINED THE SCHEME, UNDER WHICH SPECIAL UNITS ARE SET UP IN GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX YEARS WITH MINOR DISABILITIES.

THE TRIAL SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED LAST YEAR BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MILD-GRADE DISABLED CHILDREN TO MIX WITH NORMAL CHILDREN OF THEIR AGE IN A HOMELY SETTING.

MR. LAU KAI-CHUEN, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, SAID TODAY PARENTS WITH NORMAL CHILDREN IN THE PARTICIPATING NURSERIES HAD GENERALLY ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF THE SCHEME.

+ALTHOUGH THEY APPEARED TO HAVE SOME RESERVATION DURING THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE SCHEME, THEY NOW REALISE THAT INTEGRATION WITH DISABLED CHILDREN WOULD NOT AFFECT THEIR OWN CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

MR. LAU DESCRIBED THIS ATTITUDE AS MOST ENCOURAGING AND POINTED OUT THAT DISABLED CHILDREN IN THE NURSERIES HAD BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY THEIR NORMAL COUNTERPARTS.

THE LATEST DAY NURSERY JOINING THE SCHEME IS THE ON YAN NURSERY RUN BY TSUNG TSIN MISSION AT UPPER PAK TIN ESTATE, BLOCK 16, BRINGING TO 10 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING NURSERIES, HE SAID.

+INITIALLY, EACH PARTICIPATING NURSERY ADMITS SIX DISABLED CHILDREN, WHO ARE EITHER MILD-GRADE MENTALLY RETARDED, SLIGHTLY PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, OR SLIGHTLY IMPAIRED IN SPEECH, HEARING OR SIGHT.

+ADMISSIONS ARE BY WAY OF REFERRALS MADE BY WELFARE AGENCIES OR RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS,+ HE SAID.

MR. LAU SAID THOSE NURSERIES JOINING THE SCHEME WERE ALLOCATED EXTRA SUBVENTION TO MEET ADDITIONAL STAFF COST.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND ARE AVAILABLE FOR NECESSARY STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS AS WELL AS FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL FACILITIES AND STAFF TRAINING.

+IF THE SCHEME PROVES SUCCESSFUL, IT IS HOPED THAT THIS SPECIAL SERVICE COULD BE EXPANDED ON A LARGER SCALE TO BENEFIT MORE DISABLED CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

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REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND MANUFACTURES
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED MORE THAN 3,000 CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS SINCE THE REVISED PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS WERE INTRODUCED IN JULY LAST YEAR.

SO FAR, NEARLY 12,000 APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FROM IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE BEING PROCESSED.

+WE EXPECT MORE TO COME BECAUSE, ON ESTIMATE, ABOUT 25,000 PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

WARNINGS HAD BEEN SENT TO IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS REMINDING THEM TO MAKE PROMPT REGISTRATION OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT FACE PROSECUTION, HE ADDED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED REGULATIONS IS AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC FROM COUNTERFEIT, DEFECTIVE AND SUB-STANDARD PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

TO ENFORCE THESE REGULATIONS EFFECTIVELY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP THREE SPECIAL SECTIONS DEALING WITH INSPECTION, REGISTRATION AND LICENSING CONTROL RESPECTIVELY.

THE FORENSIC PHARMACY SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SPOT CHECKS AND PROSECUTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY HELPS IN TESTING PRODUCTS.

+AT PRESENT, BETWEEN 2,500 AND 3,000 MEDICINE COMPANIES, 80 PHARMACIES, 600 WHOLESALE POISON DEALERS AND ABOUT 90 PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS ARE SUBJECT TO REGULAR INSPECTIONS,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER SECTION -- THE PHARMACEUTICALS REGISTRATION AND MANUFACTURERS LICENSING SECTION -- DEALS WITH THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES FOR REGISTERED PRODUCTS.

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, EVERY PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT ON SALE MUST CONFORM TO CERTAIN STANDARDS OF SAFETY, QUALITY AND EFFICACY AS LAID DOWN BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD BEFORE IT IS REGISTERED AND PASSED FIT FOR SALE.

+NEW PRODUCTS ARE GIVEN A TIGHTER SCRUTINY. SINCE ASSESSMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS TAKES MORE TIME, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PROCESSING APPLICATIONS OF THIS KIND,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THIS SECTION IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANTING LICENCES TO MANUFACTURERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

DETAILED INSPECTION AT THE APPLICANTS' PREMISES ARE CONDUCTED TO ENSURE THEY COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS BEFORE A LICENCE IS GRANTED.

/+SO FAR,

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+SO FAR, 91 APPLICATIONS FOR MANUFACTURERS' LICENCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND 36 PREMISES INSPECTED. EIGHTEEN MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN GRANTED LICENCES AND FIVE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO STOP OPERATION AS THEY HAVE FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A THIRD SECTION, THE PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES IN RESPECT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR IMPORT FROM OR EXPORT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

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FIRST SAI KUNG FESTIVAL AN INSTANT SUCCESS

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THE FIRST SAI KUNG FESTIVAL - WHICH PROVED AN INSTANT SUCCESS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY - COMES TO AN END TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. LAU KWUN SANG, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE MAN YEE PLAYGROUND IN SAI KUNG TOWN.

A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING CHINESE FOLK DANCES, SINGING AND MAGIC SHOWS WILL BE STAGED AFTERWARDS FOR THE GUESTS BY R.T.V. ARTISTES.

THE FESTIVAL, WHICH GOT OFF THE GROUND LAST WEDNESDAY, IS THE FIRST EVENT OF SUCH SCALE EVER STAGED IN SAI KUNG.

+IT AIMS TO INSTITUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF SAI KUNG A SENSE OF BELONGING AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE THE RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT,+ THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. COLIN BOSHER, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL HAD ENOUGH VARIETY FOR MOST OF THE POPULATION OF SAI KUNG - FROM CANTONESE OPERAS, CHINESE FOLK DANCES AND SINGING, ATHLETIC MEETS, PUPPET SHOWS AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES TO EXHIBITIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND PAINTINGS.

+DESPITE THE RECENT COLD WEATHER, ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN GOOD AT ALL THE EVENTS,+ MR. BOSHER ADDED.

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED AND PROMOTED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST SAI KUNG FESTIVAL AT THE MAN YEE PLAYGROUND, SAI KUNG TOWN, AT 7 P.M. TOMORROW (MONDAY).

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EMPLOYMENT UP IN DECEMBER 1978

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MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT REGISTERED A MARGINAL INCREASE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A TOTAL OF 800,026 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 4, 1978, -- AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 9,000 PERSONS OR 1.1 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 791,073 PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPTEMBER. WHEN COMPARED WITH 755,108 PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1977, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 45,000 PERSONS OR 5.9 PER CENT.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 39,606 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN DECEMBER 1978, AN INCREASE OF 857 ESTABLISHMENTS COMPARED TO 38,749 ESTABLISHMENTS IN SEPTEMBER, AND AN INCREASE OF 2,038 WHEN COMPARED WITH 37,568 IN DECEMBER 1977.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES REMAINED WEARING APPAREL= TEXTILES= ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES= PLASTIC PRODUCTS= AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

A COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT IN THESE INDUSTRIES BETWEEN DECEMBER AND SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR IS GIVEN BELOW :-

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1977	PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1978	CHANGE OF DEC. 1978 OVER SEPT. 1978	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	251,273	263,960	266,447	+ 2,487	+ 0.9
TEXTILES	102,461	95,365	97,013	+ 1,648	+ 1.7
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	89,525	94,207	96,695	+ 2,488	+ 2.6
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	78,449	85,507	84,415	- 1,092	- 1.3
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	70,931	74,283	77,758	+ 3,475	+ 4.7

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THE MORE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR LEVEL BETWEEN DECEMBER 1978 AND SEPTEMBER 1978 WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

INDUSTRY SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1977	PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1978	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1978	CHANGE OF DEC. 1978 OVER SEPT. 1978	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
GARMENTS EXCEPT KNITWEAR FROM YARN	198,519	205,695	208,328	+ 2,633	+ 1.3
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	70,188	71,887	73,736	+ 1,849	+ 2.6
MISCELLANEOUS FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	29,679	29,857	31,009	+ 1,152	+ 3.9
HANDBAGS	12,215	13,686	14,717	+ 1,031	+ 7.5
COTTON WEAVING	25,167	24,596	25,566	+ 970	+ 3.9
WOOLLEN KNITTING INCLUDING KNITWEAR FROM YARN	37,312	39,293	36,093	- 3,200	- 8.1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS OTHER THAN PLASTIC TOYS AND PLASTIC FLOWERS	29,215	33,850	32,924	- 926	- 2.7

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR VARIOUS INDUSTRY GROUPS AND SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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