



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1976

EXPANSION OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS TO FOSTER BETTER AND MORE HARMONIOUS FAMILY LIFE.

STARTING NEXT MONTH, IT WILL EXPAND AND DEVELOP ITS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME BY ORGANISING TALKS, SEMINARS AND FORUMS ON A LARGE SCALE AND ON A LONG-TERM BASIS.

THE PROGRAMME WILL DISSEMINATE TO STUDENTS, MARRIED COUPLES, PARENTS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, INTER-FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, DATING AND COURTSHIP, MARITAL RELATIONSHIP, CHILD CARE AND THE QUESTION OF GENERATION GAP.

ACCORDING TO MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE AIM OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS FIRSTLY, TO PROMOTE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG INDIVIDUALS BY ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF SELF, OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE FAMILY AND THE ROLE EACH FAMILY MEMBER PLAYS— AND SECONDLY, TO PREVENT FAMILY BREAKDOWNS BY EQUIPPING EACH MEMBER WITH KNOWLEDGE OF MARRIAGE, PARENTHOOD AND ONE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN ENRICHING FAMILY LIFE.

HE NOTED THAT THE RESEARCH REPORT ON +SOCIAL CAUSES OF VIOLENT CRIME AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS IN HONG KONG+ HAD INDICATED SEVERAL REASONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DRIFTING TOWARDS DELINQUENCY THOUGH NO SINGLE FACTOR WAS OF OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE IN EXPLAINING THE RISE IN THE CRIME RATE.

+HOWEVER, WE HAVE A STRONG BELIEF THAT THOUGH IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE BETTER LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A DETERRENT TO CRIME, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT PREVENTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE PROPER GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BEFORE THEY GO ASTRAY,+ MR. SWEETMAN CONTINUED.

+EACH PERSON IS A MEMBER OF SOCIETY, HIS ACTIONS AND DECISIONS AFFECTED NOT ONLY HIMSELF, BUT ALSO THE COMMUNITY TO WHICH HE BELONGS. THEREFORE, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR TOTAL EDUCATION FOR LIFE AND IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT TIMES OF RAPID SOCIAL CHANGES WHEN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE SUBJECT TO CONSTANT STRESSES AND STRAINS.+

MR. SWEETMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME, OUR SOCIAL WORKERS WILL PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR COURTSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, WEDDING AND MARITAL RELATIONSHIP— AND THOSE WHO HAVE JUST BEGUN TO SET UP A FAMILY FOR THEIR MUTUAL ADJUSTMENT, DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY, PREPARING BUDGETS AND PLANNING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF CHILDREN.

HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT FOR THE YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE EXPECTING CHILDREN,+ WE PREPARE THEM ON CHILD CARE AND GROWTH, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SKILLS.+

+AS FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, WE ADVISE THEM ON THE WAYS OF HELPING CHILDREN TO ADJUST TO AUTHORITY AND TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE SCHOOL-HOME RELATIONSHIP,+ HE CONTINUED. +OUR STAFF ALSO HELP TO BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP, ENABLE PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES AND THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND EDUCATE THEM TO BE LESS HARSH ON THE YOUNG ONES.+

TURNING TO THOSE WHO HAVE ADOLESCENTS IN THE FAMILY, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT THE SOCIAL WORKERS WILL ADVISE THEM TO RECOGNISE THE DESIRE OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND AT THE SAME TIME CRAVING FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

+FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WE GIVE GUIDANCE TO THEM ON THE SELECTION OF SCHOOLS, CAREER AND MARRIAGE.

+AND FINALLY, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEREAVEMENT IN THE FAMILY, OR WHO BECOME WIDOWED, HANDICAPPED, OR AGED, WE GUIDE THEM TO DEAL WITH PAINFUL EMOTIONAL SHOCK,+ HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT, SERVICE OF THIS NATURE IS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING TO PARENTS AND CHILDREN AND POSSIBLY TO OTHER MEMBERS IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD= OR THROUGH SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICE IN WHICH DIRECT COUNSELLING AND SERVICES ARE EXTENDED TO THE PUPIL HIMSELF AND VERY OFTEN TO PARENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.

FURTHERMORE, MR. SWEETMAN CONTINUED, THE COMMUNITY CENTRES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN ORGANISING GUIDANCE PROJECTS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THEIR PARENTS IN THE SUMMER TO PREPARE THE STUDENTS IN THEIR FURTHER STUDIES AND TO HELP THEM CHOOSE A JOB.

TO EXPAND AND DEVELOP THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS TO ADOPT THE GROUP DISCUSSION APPROACH BY ORGANISING TALKS, SEMINARS AND FORUMS ON A LARGE SCALE.

MR. SWEETMAN SAID THE ADVANTAGE THAT THE GROUP DISCUSSION APPROACH HAD OVER THE CASEWORK APPROACH WAS THAT PARTICIPANTS COULD SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, HELP SOLVE EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS AND SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF A HEALTHY FAMILY LIFE AMONG THEMSELVES.

THE GROUP DISCUSSION APPROACH TO PROMOTE THE NEW PROGRAMME WILL BE AIMED AT CONTACTING:-

- I) PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE UNDER INSTITUTIONAL CARE OR IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS=
- II) SCHOOLS, BY EXPANDING SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK=
- III) CHURCH GROUPS= AND
- IV) THE COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMITTEES ORGANISED AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

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+A LONG-TERM COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME IS BEING PLANNED WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE,+ MR. SWEETMAN SAID.

+LOCAL COMMITTEES WILL BE FORMED IN THE DISTRICTS AND LOCAL LEADERS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE INVITED TO SIT ON THESE COMMITTEES TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR IDEAS AND ADVICE ON THE WAYS AND MEANS OF PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT.

+MORE FORUMS, TALKS, SEMINARS AND CONTESTS TO INCREASE FAMILY AWARENESS WILL BE ORGANISED, + HE ADDED.

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CONTRACT SIGNING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEX
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A CONTRACT FOR A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEX AT PAK TIN FOR 15,700 PEOPLE WILL BE SIGNED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 16.

THE SIGNING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE P.W.D. ARCHITECTURAL CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HAVE THE CEREMONY COVERED.

MR. THOMAS KU, CHIEF P.W.D. ARCHITECT, WILL SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS AFTER THE CEREMONY.

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106 FAMILIES ACCEPT RE-HOUSING TO MOVE
FROM TAI ON MANSION AND NEARBY RESUMED BUILDING
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A TOTAL OF 106 FAMILIES OF DOMESTIC TENANTS LIVING AT TAI ON MANSION, NOS 2-4 TAI PO ROAD, AND A SECOND BUILDING AT 205-205A SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED OR INDICATED THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT PUBLIC RE-HOUSING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTED ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE FAMILIES LIVING IN THE TWO BUILDINGS.

+DOMESTIC TENANTS AMONG THESE PEOPLE ARE TO GET EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION OF ABOUT \$20 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND LESS FOR KITCHENS, TOILETS, BALCONIES AND STORAGE AREAS, PROVIDED THESE ARE NOT SHARED WITH OTHER FAMILIES,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+HALF OF THIS AMOUNT WILL PAID TO THEM IN ADVANCE AND THE BALANCE WHEN THEY LEAVE THEIR PREMISES.

+THE MONEY PAID IN ADVANCE WILL ENABLE THEM TO PAY THE COST OF REMOVAL AND OTHER EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH MOVING INTO THEIR NEW HOMES.

+THUS THEY HAVE TAKEN A REALISTIC ATTITUDE TO THE FACT THAT THEY MUST VACATE THEIR PREMISES TO MAKE WAY FOR TUNNELLING WORKS FOR THE MASS TRANSIT.

+ALSO THEY HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION AND RE-HOUSING FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR IT.+

THE SPOKESMAN REPEATED THAT TAI ON MANSION AND 205-205A SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET WOULD HAVE TO BE VACATED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 AND THAT THERE DEFINITELY WOULD BE NO POSTPONEMENT OF THE RESUMPTIONS.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SPECIAL STEPS TO GIVE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC TENANTS OF SUCH POST-WAR BUILDINGS REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

+THOSE TENANTS WHO HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED RE-HOUSING HAVE TAKEN A REALISTIC ATTITUDE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE REMAINING DOMESTIC TENANTS, AND OTHER COMMERCIAL TENANTS AND OWNER-OCCUPIERS INVOLVED, TAKE A SIMILAR ATTITUDE AND ACCEPT THE FAIR TERMS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT BEING OFFERED TO THEM.+

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