



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1976

PROBATION SERVICES TO BE STRENGTHENED * * * * *

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS EMBARKING ON A SERIES OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO STRENGTHEN ITS PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS SERVICE.

AMONG PLANS ALREADY UNDERWAY OR IN THE PIPELINE IS A SCHEME TO MOBILISE VOLUNTARY WORKERS TO ASSIST AND BEFRIEND PROBATIONERS, A ROUND-THE-CLOCK +HOT LINE+ SERVICE TO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO PROBATIONERS IN URGENT NEED= THE EXPANSION OF TRAINING FACILITIES IN CORRECTIONAL HOMES, AND THE BUILDING OF A LARGER AND BETTER-EQUIPPED HOME FOR PROBLEM GIRLS.

REVEALING THESE PLANS TODAY, MR. MAK WING-HONG, HEAD OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION, SAID THAT A PILOT SCHEME ON 'VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS' HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED LAST YEAR.

+THE SCHEME IS A COMPLEMENTARY SERVICE RENDERED BY SELECTED VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL AND MORAL SUPPORT THROUGH FRIENDSHIP TO PROBATIONERS.+

+WE STARTED OFF WITH 25 VOLUNTEERS EACH BEFRIENDING AND ASSISTING ONE PROBATIONER,+ HE SAID, +AND THE ULTIMATE AIM IS TO EXPAND THE SCHEME TO COVER A WIDER SPECTRUM OF PROBATIONERS.+

HE CONTINUED: +WE ALSO HOPE TO PROVIDE THESE VOLUNTEERS WITH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AS WELL AS A SMALL TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE.

+A YOUNG OFFENDER MAY FEEL MORE AT EASE AND LESS SUSPICIOUS TOWARDS A VOLUNTEER WHO IS NOT ASSIGNED BY THE AUTHORITIES TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. HE OFTEN REGARDS THE VOLUNTEER AS HIS FRIEND AND CONFIDES HIS DEEPEST SECRETS TO HIM.

+SOMETIMES A PROBATIONER MAY HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS OR TALENTS SUCH AS MUSIC OR ART, AND A VOLUNTARY WORKER WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS CAN MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY HELP HIM TO DEVELOP SUCH TALENTS.

+ANOTHER MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHEME IS THAT A VOLUNTEER CAN ALWAYS LEAD THE PROBATIONER TO A NEW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, HELPING HIM TO BREAK AWAY FROM HIS FORMER BAD ASSOCIATES. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TOWARDS INDIRECTLY REDUCING THE RATE OF RECIDIVISM.+

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TURNING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF SUPERVISION AND PROVIDING MORE INTENSIVE CARE TO PROBATIONERS, MR. MAK SAID THAT THERE WAS PLAN FOR A +HOT LINE+ SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH A PROBATION OFFICER IS AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE AROUND-THE-CLOCK TO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR URGENT MATTERS, TO BE TRIED OUT IN SAN PO KONG ON A SIX-MONTH EXPERIMENTAL BASIS.

+ALL PROBATION OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT WOULD BE CARRYING OUT AFTER OFFICE HOURS VOLUNTARY WORK ACCORDING TO A DUTY ROSTER,+ HE EMPHASISED.

+THEY CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE CONTACT POINT SET UP AT THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' PROBATION HOME BY ANY PROBATIONER WHO GETS INTO TROUBLE OR WHO NEEDS URGENT ADVICE.+

MR. MAK STRESSED THAT ADVICE AND A HELPING HAND AT THE RIGHT TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING CRISIS, COULD BE THE DECIDING FACTOR IN SAVING A PROBATIONER WHO MIGHT BE ON THE BRINK OF COMMITTING CRIME AGAIN.

+INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE PLAN HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AND IF IT PROVES WORKABLE, IT WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL OTHER AREAS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO CORRECTIONAL HOMES, MR. MAK REVEALED THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES TO BE EXPANDED TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS. NOWADAYS, HE POINTED OUT, YOUNG PEOPLE ADMITTED TO THE HOMES ARE MORE SOPHISTICATED AND WITH HIGHER ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT. THEREFORE, THE EXISTING TRAINING PROGRAMME IS CONSTANTLY UNDER REVIEW.

+PLANS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO INTRODUCE SECONDARY CLASSES INTO CORRECTIONAL HOMES BECAUSE MANY OF THE INMATES THERE HAVE ALREADY FINISHED THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION.

+INMATES WITH STILL HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS CAN BE SENT TO SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE HOME,+ HE SAID.

+EXTENDED SERVICES ARE PROVIDED TO PROBATIONERS WHO ARE NOT RESIDENTIAL INMATES OF THE HOMES BUT CAN COME AND ATTEND CLASSES IN EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL COURSES WHICH THEY FIND USEFUL.+

MR. MAK ALSO REVEALED THAT A NEW GIRLS' HOME WILL BE BUILT AT SHEUNG SHING STREET, KOWLOON TO REPLACE THE PRESENT MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME IN ORDER TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND.

THE NEW HOME, HE SAID, WILL HAVE UP-TO-DATE TRAINING FACILITIES AS WELL AS A DORMITORY FOR 150 GIRLS. THE PRESENT MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE 60 GIRLS.

+PLANNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING IS ALREADY IN THE ADVANCED STAGE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE HOME WILL BE READY FOR OCCUPATION IN MID-1978,+ HE ADDED.

TWO MAJOR ROADS FOR TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT TO BUILD TWO MAJOR ROADS AT TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

ALTOGETHER 1,470 METRES OF ROADS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO CONTRACTS TO BE LET BY THE P.W.D. IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE FIRST OF THE WORKS WILL BE ON TSING YI ISLAND WHERE THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 800 METRES OF SURFACED ROADS WITH FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

THE P.W.D.'S TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER, MR. KEITH AUSTIN, SAID TODAY THAT STORM-WATER DRAINS, SEWERS AND OTHER UTILITY SERVICES WOULD BE LAID IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ROADWORKS. HE SAID WORK WOULD START NEXT MONTH AND WOULD TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

+THE NEW ROAD WILL SERVE A LARGE NEW ESTATE NOW BEING BUILT ON TSING YI ISLAND WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE NEW TOWN PLAN FOR AN EVENTUAL POPULATION OF 185,000,+ SAID MR. AUSTIN.

+THE TWIN TOWER BLOCKS NOW VISIBLE ON THE SKYLINE ABOVE THE TSING YI BRIDGE WILL, WHEN COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR, HOUSE 23,000 PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

+WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED ON THE NEXT PHASE OF THIS ESTATE WITH TWO MORE TWIN TOWER BLOCKS TO HOUSE 11,000 WITH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED.+

THE SECOND ROAD PROJECT, FOR WHICH TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED, INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD JOINING KWAI FUK ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG TO TEXACO ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THIS IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE ROAD SYSTEM IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE LINK BETWEEN CENTRAL TSUEN WAN AND KOWLOON, BY-PASSING THE BUSY JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

ABOUT 670 METRES OF 3-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH FOOTPATHS EITHER SIDE AND A PUBLIC CARPARK WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS, WHILE LAND ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE NEW ROAD WILL BE LEVELLED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THE WORK WILL BEGIN IN DECEMBER AND TAKE 21 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE ROAD HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE ON BEHALF OF THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

THIS NEW WORK IS PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN TO PROVIDE THE NEW TOWN WITH MODERN, CONVENIENT ACCESSSES TO ALL CENTRES.

IN THE LONG TERM THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS WILL PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD BY 1981.

THE BY-PASS WILL SPAN THE KWAI CHUNG RECLAMATION AREA AND TSUEN WAN BAY, AND INTERCHANGES WILL PROVIDE CONNECTIONS WITH THE KWAI CHUNG ROAD SYSTEM, THE TSING YI BRIDGE, TEXACO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT THE WESTERN END OF THE TOWN.

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FINANCE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT GOES +OPEN PLAN+
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THE SECOND BRANCH IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO CHANGE TO THE +OPEN PLAN+ OFFICE SYSTEM IS THE FINANCE BRANCH WHICH HAS JUST MOVED INTO ITS NEW OFFICE SEATING ARRANGEMENT.

THE FIRST BRANCH TO GO +OPEN PLAN+ WAS THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH EARLIER THIS YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE MOVE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FINANCE BRANCH SAID THAT APART FROM SAVING SPACE, THE OPEN PLAN SYSTEM IS ALSO IN KEEPING WITH MODERN OFFICE SETTINGS, ESPECIALLY WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF STAFF ARE INVOLVED.

PREVIOUSLY, STAFF WERE ACCOMMODATED IN SEPARATE ROOMS, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR SEVERAL TOGETHER, BUT NOW EACH DIVISION OF THE BRANCH IS GROUPED INTO A SECTION OF THE +OPEN PLAN+ AREA IN WHICH ALSO SITS THE SENIOR OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT PARTICULAR DIVISION.

+THIS MEANS STAFF HAVE EASIER ACCESS TO EACH OTHER AND ALSO SAVES ON HAVING TO WALK LONG DISTANCES TO OTHER ROOMS, ALL OF WHICH GO TOWARDS GREATER EFFICIENCY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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C.A.D. MAN TO ATTEND AIR SERVICES TALKS
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MR. NORMAN LATHAM, ACTING CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, LEFT FOR WASHINGTON THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING TO TAKE PART IN AIR SERVICES TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE TALKS ARE THE SECOND ROUND OF A SERIES CONCERNED WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW U.K./U.S. AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT.

FOLLOWING THE WASHINGTON MEETING, MR. LATHAM WILL GO DIRECT TO DELHI TO ATTEND AIR SERVICES TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA. THIS MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO AMEND ROUTE SCHEDULES OF THE DESIGNATED AIRLINES: CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, BRITISH AIRWAYS AND AIR INDIA.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE AT PING SHAN RURAL COMMITTEE

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THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS AT THE PING SHAN RURAL COMMITTEE FOR RESIDENTS AND PERSONS LIVING NEARBY.

THEY WILL BE THERE FOR THREE DAYS FROM OCTOBER 25 TO OCTOBER 27.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN/WARDS OF 11 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND TO ENABLE HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND TO REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DAILY.

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NAM CHEONG STREET BUS LANE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE BUS LANE IN NAM CHEONG STREET BETWEEN BERWICK STREET AND UN CHAU STREET WILL BE OPEN TO NON-FRANCHISED BUSES FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 19).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREA.