



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1980

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WORKING PARTY SET UP TO STUDY LOCAL PHARMACY PRACTICE
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW THE PRESENT LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY AND THE NEED FOR TRAINING FACILITIES.

MR ALEX S.C. WU WILL CHAIR THE WORKING PARTY, WHICH WILL INCLUDE IN ITS MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERESTED PROFESSIONS AND OF THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST.

+ONE OF THE TASKS OF THE WORKING PARTY,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +IS TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE EXISTING LAW SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE ALL PRESCRIPTIONS TO BE HANDLED BY A REGISTERED PHARMACIST.+

IN HONG KONG AT PRESENT REGISTERED PHARMACISTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE EMPLOYED ONLY IN PREMISES REGISTERED AS AUTHORISED SELLERS OF POISONS, AND PREMISES LICENSED TO MANUFACTURE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED: +THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPLY TO A MEDICINE SUPPLIED BY A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER OR DENTIST FOR PURPOSES OF MEDICAL OR DENTAL TREATMENT.

+THIS MEANS THAT PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ARE ALLOWED TO DO THEIR OWN DISPENSING. AND THERE IS NO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED PHARMACISTS IN A DOCTOR'S DISPENSARY.+

THERE ARE AT PRESENT A TOTAL OF 335 PHARMACISTS PRACTISING LOCALLY, AND WHILE THERE ARE NO FACILITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF PHARMACISTS, AVAILABLE INFORMATION SUGGESTS THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO WARRANT THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

+SO, BEFORE LAUNCHING ANY TRAINING SCHEME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +IT IS NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE PHARMACY AND DISPENSING FIELD TO ESTABLISH WHETHER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THE LAW NEEDS TO BE AMENDED.+

+IT IS ALSO NECESSARY FIRST TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PHARMACISTS AND SUPPORTING STAFF - SUCH AS DISPENSERS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS - TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT TYPE AND LEVEL OF TRAINING SHOULD BE PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDINGLY, THE WORKING PARTY HAS WIDE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WILL CONSIDER:

- (A) WHETHER THE LAW REQUIRING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PHARMACISTS REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE SHOULD BE MODIFIED IN ANY WAY-
- (B) THE NEED FOR PHARMACISTS BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTORS UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND UNDER ANY POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS, IF ANY, RECOMMENDED UNDER (A) ABOVE.

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- (C) THE WORK AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PHARMACISTS IN BOTH SECTORS UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND UNDER ANY POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS, IF ANY, RECOMMENDED UNDER (A) ABOVE=
- (D) THE NEED FOR AND THE LEVELS OF SUPPORTING STAFF IN BOTH SECTORS UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND UNDER ANY POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS, IF ANY, RECOMMENDED UNDER (A) ABOVE=
- (E) WHETHER THE LAW RELATING TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO PERMIT THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO ACCEPT NON-COMMONWEALTH QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECT REGISTRATION=
- (F) WHETHER TRAINING COURSES TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STAFF ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND UNDER ANY POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS, IF ANY, RECOMMENDED UNDER (A) AND (E) ABOVE, AND IF SO WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE SET UP IN HONG KONG, AND AT WHAT LEVELS AND BY WHICH INSTITUTIONS.

APART FROM THE CHAIRMAN, THE WORKING PARTY WILL COMPRISE:

MR ANDREW SO
MR ANDREW LI
MRS MAXINE KWOK
MR MARVIN CHEUNG
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HK MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(HK BRANCH)
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF HONG KONG
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE
PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF PHARMACY
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH
SERVICES
THE CHIEF PHARMACIST

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL BE REPRESENTED AS AND WHEN MATTERS AFFECTING THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE DISCUSSED. THE WORKING PARTY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CO-OPT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

SEVERANCE PAY LAW CONSTANTLY REVIEWED
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF LABOUR RELATIONS, MR DONALD CHAN, SAID TODAY THAT THE SEVERANCE PAY LEGISLATION WHICH WAS ENACTED IN 1974 WAS BEING KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW IN THE SAME WAY AS OTHER PROVISIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF THE PEAK HONG KONG, HE REFERRED TO CRITICISMS OF THE LAW ON SEVERANCE PAY AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY A FEW POINTS AND EXPLAIN THE INTENTION OF THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

SEVERANCE PAYMENT, HE EMPHASISED, WAS MEANT TO BE COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT THROUGH NO FAULT OF THE EMPLOYEE'S OWN AND NOT IN ANY SENSE A REWARD FOR LONG SERVICE OR GOOD WORK. IT AROSE ONLY WHERE DISMISSAL WAS DUE TO REDUNDANCY.

AN EMPLOYEE WAS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN DISMISSED BY REASON OF REDUNDANCY IF THE DISMISSAL WAS DUE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CAUSES -- AN EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS WAS CLOSED= THERE WAS A REDUCTION IN DEMAND FOR HIS KIND OF WORK= AND HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT WAS MOVED FROM ONE SIDE OF THE HARBOUR TO THE OTHER.

IN DETERMINING THE RATES AND METHOD OF SEVERANCE PAY, MR CHAN CONTINUED, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RELIEF TO REDUNDANT WORKERS ON THE ONE HAND, AND ON THE OTHER THE NEED TO SEE THAT THE NEW LIABILITY SHOULD NOT OVERSTRAIN THE SMALLER EMPLOYER.

WHILE THE NEED TO LEGISLATE SEVERANCE PAY WAS RECOGNISED, IT WAS ALSO REALISED THAT IF THE RATES OF PAYMENT WERE SET TOO HIGH, MANY SMALL EMPLOYERS WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF MEETING THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND WOULD BE DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS. THIS IN TURN WOULD CREATE FURTHER REDUNDANCY AND DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE RATE OF HALF A MONTH'S PAY FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST COMPROMISE.

HE SAID IN ORDER THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD NOT FACE TOO HEAVY AN INITIAL LIABILITY, IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO LIMIT THE PERIOD OF SERVICE ELIGIBLE FOR SEVERANCE PAY TO EIGHT YEARS BEFORE THE LAW CAME INTO FORCE.

+UP TO THIS DATE, I AM SATISFIED THAT THIS RATE OF PAYMENT IS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND COMPARES FAIRLY FAVOURABLE WITH OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES,+ HE NOTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SEVERANCE PAY LAW MERELY PRESCRIBED THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS GIVEN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC REALITY OF HONG KONG. IT SHOULD NOT THEREFORE BE REGARDED AS THE AGREED OR EVEN THE MOST DESIRABLE FORMULA.

+THE INTENTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT EMPLOYERS WHO CAN AFFORD TO BE MORE GENEROUS SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE SO. FOR THESE EMPLOYERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, THE STATUTORY PROVISIONS SHOULD PROVIDE A YARDSTICK WHICH MAY BE USED AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

+IN THIS REGARD, I AM PLEASED TO OBSERVE THAT MOST EMPLOYERS HAVE ADOPTED AN ENLIGHTENED ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH CLAIMS FOR SEVERANCE PAY.

+MANY CLAIMS HAVE BEEN PEACEFULLY SETTLED THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATION BY REFERRING TO THE STATUTORY STANDARDS. IN MOST CASES, EMPLOYERS DO RATHER BETTER THAN THESE STANDARDS.+

MR CHAN REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SEVERANCE PAY LAW HAD IN GENERAL WORKED SATISFACTORILY, IT WAS CONSTANTLY REVIEWED FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE DID NOT DISMISS THE PROBABILITY THAT A NEED MIGHT ARISE FOR THE REVISION OF SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS.

+YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT, AS AMENDMENT OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE IS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS, SO THE PROVISIONS ON SEVERANCE PAY WILL BE REVISED AS APPROPRIATE TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE TIME TO COME,+ HE SAID.

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RECORD NUMBER OF NEW COMPANIES INCORPORATED
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THE COMPANIES REGISTRY INCORPORATED A RECORD NUMBER OF 11 907 NEW COMPANIES DURING THE YEAR 1979-80, AN INCREASE OF 2 646 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE AGGREGATE OF ALL CAPITALS DROPPED SLIGHTLY BY \$24 MILLION FROM THE TOTAL OF \$3 287 MILLION IN 1978-79.

ALTOGETHER 711 COMPANIES WERE DISSOLVED, INCLUDING 242 DELETED FROM THE COMPANIES REGISTER, LEAVING 70 863 ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

DELETIONS WERE MADE MAINLY BECAUSE THE REGISTRAR GENERAL HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE COMPANIES WERE NOT CARRYING ON BUSINESS OR WERE NOT IN OPERATION.

THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG, WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED A PLACE OF BUSINESS HERE, ROSE BY 148 TO 1 303.

AT THE END OF THE YEAR THERE WERE 341 INSURANCE COMPANIES CONDUCTING THE REGULATED CLASSES OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING 168 HONG KONG COMPANIES, 59 BRITISH COMPANIES AND 41 AMERICAN COMPANIES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS WAS 4 902, A RECORD FIGURE AND 571 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 4 311 IN 1978-79.

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OF THE TOTAL, HONG KONG LED WITH 463 APPLICATIONS, FOLLOWED BY THE UNITED STATES WITH 441, THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH 216 AND JAPAN WITH 204.

DURING THE YEAR, 1 900 TRADE MARKS WERE REGISTERED AND 2 436 RENEWED, BRINGING THE TOTAL ON THE REGISTER TO 34 594.

THE NUMBER OF PATENTS REGISTERED IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS 831. THERE WERE 247 US PATENTS, 218 JAPANESE, 100 UK, 83 WEST GERMAN, AND 51 SWISS.

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PAYMENT OF PROFITS TAX

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PROFITS TAX PAYERS ARE REMINDED TO CHECK THEIR DEMAND NOTES TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE TAX DUE IS PAID BY THE SPECIFIED DATE.

IF THE FIRST INSTALMENT IS NOT SO PAID, THE SECOND INSTALMENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DUE IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED AND PLEAS FOR OVERSIGHT WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

BESIDES, WHERE TAX IS NOT PAID BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE MAY LEVY A SURCHARGE NOT EXCEEDING 5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX WHICH WILL ALSO BE IMMEDIATELY DUE FOR PAYMENT.

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE AT THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION OFFICES:

HONG KONG - WINDSOR HOUSE, 3RD FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

KOWLOON - PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK.

TSUEN WAN - FOU WAH CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

IT MAY ALSO BE MADE BY POST BY SENDING A CROSSED CHEQUE, ATTACHED TO THE DEMAND NOTE, TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, GPO BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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ROAD SAFETY FUNFAIR TO BE HELD IN TUEN MUN
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A ROAD SAFETY FUNFAIR IS TO BE HELD AT TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND THIS SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 16) TO TEACH THE PUBLIC HOW TO USE THE ROADS PROPERLY.

THERE WILL BE 15 GAME STALLS AT THE FUNFAIR ORGANISED BY LOCAL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, SCHOOLS, JUNIOR POLICE CALL TEAMS AND ROAD SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS.

THE DESIGN OF THE GAMES WILL EMPHASISE THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING TRAFFIC RULES.

THE BEST THREE DESIGNS WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY THE BAND OF THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, LION DANCES, PUPPET SHOWS AND A PARADE BY ROAD SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WILL BE TUEN MUN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SARAH WU, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF TRAFFIC NEW TERRITORIES, MR LIM SEK-YEUNG, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR CHAN WING HING.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI HING ESTATE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, THE YWCA CASTLE PEAK SERVICE CENTRE AND TAI HING ESTATE COMMUNITY HALL AND CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTRE. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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CAUSEWAY BAY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS
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THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS NEAR CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 14) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT ACROSS KING'S ROAD:

- * LAU SIN STREET TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND=
- * YACHT STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND=
- * LAU LI STREET TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND, AND
- * LAU LI STREET BETWEEN NGAN MOK STREET AND KING'S ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP AT THESE PLACES TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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