



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1977

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A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE EDUCATION PROBLEM

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CHILDREN IN THE SIX TO 11 AGE GROUP WHO DO NOT ATTEND PRIMARY SCHOOL MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO BY NEW TEACHING METHODS ALLOWING GREATER DEGREE OF PUPIL PARTICIPATION.

THE NEED TO PUBLICISE PRIMARY EDUCATION AND TO MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING AND STIMULATING WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN TODAY'S (SUNDAY) RTHK +IN PERSPECTIVE+ DISCUSSION PROGRAMME ON +THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION+.

THE PANEL TAKING PART IN THE DISCUSSION INCLUDED MR. DAVID LEUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY)= MR. YEUNG SUM, EDUCATION ACTION GROUP REPRESENTATIVE= MR. LAM KA MAN, SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE= MR. LUK TSANG YUEN, SUPERVISOR, FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION SCHOOLS AND MR. WONG CHI CHING, GUEST COMMENTATOR.

THEY ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY THE BASIC REASON WHY PARENTS KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME INSTEAD OF SENDING THEM TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

FREQUENT ABSENCE AT SEA WAS THOUGHT TO BE A MAJOR REASON PREVENTING FISHERMEN FROM SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

MR. LUK TSANG YUEN POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIVELY EARLY RETIREMENT AGE OF SOME FISHERMEN FURTHER COMPLICATED THE ISSUE BY PUTTING THE BURDEN OF EARNING THE FAMILY LIVELIHOOD ONTO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

FOR THE POPULATION AT LARGE, THE PANEL THOUGHT THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE HUSBANDS AND WIVES HAD TO GO OUT TO WORK, OLDER CHILDREN WERE FREQUENTLY RELIED UPON TO LOOK AFTER YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THUS DEPRIVED OF THE CHANCE OF RECEIVING EDUCATION.

THE EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR SENDING A CHILD TO SCHOOL, SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION FEES AND MONEY FOR UNIFORMS BECAME A DETERRENT FACTOR WHEN SEVERAL CHILDREN OF THE FAMILY REACHED SCHOOL AGE.

LACK OF INTEREST IN SCHOOL LIFE MIGHT BE ANOTHER LESS APPARENT, BUT NEVERTHELESS DOMINANT REASON FOR SCHOOL DROP-OUTS. MEMBERS OF THE PANEL THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE CAUSED EITHER BY THE LOW INTELLIGENCE LEVEL OF THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES, THE DULL TEACHING METHOD, OR EVEN THE LARGE PROPORTION OF ENGLISH TEACHING MATERIAL USED IN CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

CONCERNING THIS ASPECT, MR. DAVID LEUNG SAID THAT THE TEACHING METHOD IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN SHIFTING TO ONE IN WHICH THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES TOOK A MORE ACTIVE PART, THUS THE LEARNING PROCESS BECAME MUCH MORE INTERESTING AND LIVELY.

NARROWING DOWN THE SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION, MR. LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS ON THE PROBLEM OF SCHOOL DROP-OUTS, AND WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, STAFF OF THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE TRACEABLE ONES BACK TO SCHOOL.

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HOWEVER, DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES, THIS KIND OF DETAILED INVESTIGATION COULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT TO A LIMITED EXTENT, AND EVEN IF MANPOWER RESOURCES COULD BE INCREASED, THOSE CHILDREN WHO HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY SCHOOLING WOULD STILL REMAIN A PROBLEM.

THE PANEL AGREED THAT PUBLICISING THE ADVANTAGES OF PRIMARY EDUCATION AND AT THE SAME TIME PERSUADING PARENTS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WOULD HELP ELIMINATE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION.

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SOCIAL STUDIES EXHIBITIONS AT THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS
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THREE OF THE 15 MONITORED SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES ON A TRIAL BASIS ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS TO HOLD EXHIBITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND EARLY NEXT MONTH.

ANOTHER 28 SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

THE THREE SCHOOLS WHICH WILL MOUNT EXHIBITIONS ARE KEI CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL IN KWUN TONG, TAK NGA SCHOOL IN YAU YAT CHUEN AND MUNSANG COLLEGE IN KOWLOON CITY.

THE EXHIBITIONS, TO BE MOUNTED BY FORMS 1 AND 2 PUPILS, WILL INCLUDE MODELS, MAPS, CHARTS AND PROJECTS OF VARIOUS KINDS RELATING TO THE TOPICS IN THE SYLLABUS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO SEE THE EXHIBITIONS.

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION AT KEI CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BE OPENED BY THE ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MRS. LOUISE MOK, AT 10.30 A.M. ON MAY 28. IT WILL REMAIN OPEN THE FOLLOWING DAY AND WILL CLOSE AT 4.30 P.M. ON MAY 30.

THE ONE-DAY EXHIBITION AT TAK NGA SCHOOL WILL BE HELD FROM 10 A.M. TO 4.30 P.M. ON MAY 29.

MRS. MOK WILL ALSO OPEN THE TWO-DAY EXHIBITION AT MUNSANG COLLEGE AT 9.30 A.M. ON JUNE 4.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT KEI CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL AT 10.30 A.M. ON MAY 28 AND AT MUNSANG COLLEGE AT 9.30 A.M. ON JUNE 4.

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ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY
RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE
PROVE POPULAR
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A GROUP OF ELDERLY MEN AND WOMEN TAKE A CALCULATED STEP FORWARD, SLOWLY SWING THEIR EXTENDED FRAGILE ARMS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND BRING THEM TO REST. THEY START THE MOVEMENTS AGAIN CHANGING THE PATTERN BUT KEEPING THE TEMPO AND GRACE OF TAI CHI CHUAN OR SHADOW BOXING.

ONE CAN OBSERVE THIS EARLY MORNING RITUAL -- SOMETIMES JOINED BY THE YOUNG AND THE MIDDLE-AGED -- THROUGHOUT VARIOUS PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN HONG KONG. IT IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AND MOST POPULAR RECREATION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED AND PROMOTED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

IN THE TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE SERVICE HAS ORGANISED MANY TAI CHI CLASSES AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER EVENTS SUCH AS OUTINGS, SPORTS AND GAMES FOR A TOTAL OF ABOUT 327,378 PEOPLE -- INCLUDING THE HANDICAPPED -- OF ALL AGES.

DESPITE ITS RELATIVELY BRIEF HISTORY, THE ACTIVITIES IT PROVIDES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR.

IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1976-77 A TOTAL OF 192,382 PEOPLE JOINED THE PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED BY THE SERVICE, AN INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE OF 134,996, OR 92 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

THE SERVICE CAME INTO BEING IN OCTOBER 1974 AS A RESULT OF GROWING AWARENESS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE MORE SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY -- NOT ONLY THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT WORK BUT ALSO THE OLDER PEOPLE.

HENCE THIS NEW GOVERNMENT RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE SET ABOUT ITS AIMS:-

- * TO PROVIDE A STRUCTURE FOR OVERALL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL RECREATION AND SPORT ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY BASED ON DISTRICTS=
- * TO ASSESS DISTRICT NEEDS IN THE RECREATION AND SPORT FIELD AND TO CO-ORDINATE A DISTRICT POLICY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE DISTRICTS= AND
- * TO PROMOTE TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT PHYSICAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN EACH DISTRICT, ENCOURAGING WIDE PARTICIPATION.

IN ITS FIRST YEAR-AND-A-HALF OF OPERATION SIX DISTRICTS WERE SERVICED BY A RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER. THESE DISTRICTS WERE KWUN TONG, SHAM SHUI PO, WONG TAI SIN, HONG KONG EAST, HONG KONG WEST AND YUEN LONG.

SINCE THEN ALL 11 OTHER DISTRICTS -- WAN CHAI, HONG KONG SOUTHERN, MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON CITY, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN, TAI PO, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND OUTLYING ISLANDS -- HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.

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EVERY POSSIBLE ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE AS WIDE A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES AS POSSIBLE. COMPETITIONS AND COACHING CLINICS IN THE POPULAR GAMES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED IN ALL DISTRICTS. THE LESS POPULAR SPORTS SUCH AS DIVING, WATER POLO AND ROLLER SKATING HAVE ATTRACTED PARTICIPANTS EAGER TO LEARN A NEW SKILL.

MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE ENJOYED OUTINGS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND ANOTHER POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN THE FAMILY CAMP.

MORE RECENTLY THE 9.7 HECTARES SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, EQUIPPED WITH THE TRAPPINGS OF MODERN CONVENIENCES AND GAMES FACILITIES FOR BOTH THE ABLE AND DISABLED, WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY PRINCESS ALEXANDRA DURING HER VISIT HERE IN FEBRUARY.

TO FURTHER ATTEST TO ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, THE SERVICE HAS TRAINED 3,000 VOLUNTEERS AS COACHES, REFEREES AND LEADERS TO ASSIST IN RUNNING VARIOUS PROGRAMMES. THESE TRAINED VOLUNTEERS ARE EMPLOYED ON AN HOURLY PAID BASIS BY THE SERVICE AND THE MANPOWER IS THUS AVAILABLE TO RUN A WIDE DISTRICT BASED PROGRAMME.

THESE PROGRAMMES COVER, IN ORDER OF POPULARITY, THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: CAMPING AND EXPEDITIONS, TAI CHI CLASSES, EXCURSIONS AND HIKING, ATHELETICS, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, SWIMMING, GAMES DAYS, MARTIAL ARTS, TABLE TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, FITNESS PROGRAMMES, DANCES, HARBOUR CRUISES FOR THE AGED, WALKATHONS, BADMINTON, GYMNASTICS, TENNIS, ROLLER SKATING, DIVING COURSE, WATER POLO, CANOEING, AND HANDBALL.

MOST OF THOSE TAKING PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES ARE BETWEEN 16 AND 24 YEARS OF AGE. AGES CATERED FOR RANGE FROM 10 TO 66.

WHERE CAN THE SERVICE GO FROM HERE?

+EVERY ONE HAS A RIGHT TO ENJOY HIS LEISURE TIME AND TAKE PART, IF HE SO DESIRES, IN SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE SAID.

+JUST AS IN OTHER GAMES OR ACTIVITIES, PEOPLE HAVE TO BE TAUGHT THE SKILLS WHICH ALLOW THEM TO ENJOY LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES.

+FIRST YOU MUST LEARN TO SWIM OR LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS BEFORE YOU CAN TAKE PART WITH FULL ENJOYMENT IN THE ACTIVITY. SO THIS IS ONE AREA WHICH MUST BE EXPANDED TO MEET PUBLIC DEMAND.

+MORE AND MORE COACHING CLASSES IN SPORTS AND GAMES CONDUCTED BY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED COACHES MUST BE ORGANISED AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

+GREATER PROVISION FOR RECREATION WILL DEFINITELY HAVE A FAR-REACHING EFFECT ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO PARTS OF YUEN LONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON TUESDAY (MAY 24) TO ALLOW THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS THERE.

SOME OF THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN PING HA ROAD AND FUI SHA WAI INCLUDING TONG YAN SAN TSUEN.

THE OTHER AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD, FUNG CHEUNG STREET, HOP YICK ROAD, TAI TONG ROAD, KAU YUK ROAD, MAIN NULLAH, WAH NING PATH AND TAI YUK ROAD INCLUDING YAU SAN STREET, HONG LOK STREET AND YUEN LONG POLICE STATION.

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