



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1976

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME
 RENT ALLOWANCE TO BE INCREASED FROM SEPTEMBER 1
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RENT ALLOWANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WILL BE INCREASED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE NEW MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE FOR A FAMILY OF BETWEEN 10 TO 12 PEOPLE HAS BEEN SET AT \$557, WHICH IS MORE THAN TRIPLE THE EXISTING MAXIMUM OF \$176.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, RECALLED THAT THE EXISTING SCALE WAS IMPLEMENTED IN 1974, BUT SINCE THEN RENTALS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, WHICH ARE THE BASIS FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE ALLOWANCE, HAVE INCREASED.

MOST PEOPLE DRAWING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ARE LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING. WITH THE INCREASE IN RENT ALLOWANCE, MR. SWEETMAN POINTED OUT, FAMILIES LIVING IN THE NEWEST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES COMMANDING THE HIGHEST RENT WILL IN FUTURE NO LONGER HAVE TO SUBSIDISE THEIR RENT OUT OF THE PART OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THEM. THIS WILL ENABLE THEM TO USE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO SUPPLEMENT ANY OTHER INCOME TO MEET THEIR BASIC FOOD AND CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS.

+FROM NOW ONWARDS WHEN EACH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASE COMES UP FOR REVIEW, THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES WILL CALCULATE AND GRANT ANY INCREASE PAYABLE IN THE RENT ALLOWANCE,+ HE SAID.

+THE INCREASED RATES WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR AND WILL BE OF COURSE BE BACK-DATED TO SEPTEMBER 1 IN RESPECT OF CASES OF REVIEW AFTER THAT DATE,+ HE ASSURED.

MR. SWEETMAN URGED PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO EXERCISE PATIENCE AS IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE 53,000 CURRENT CASES.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, CASES OF PARTICULAR HARDSHIP WOULD BE DEALT WITH ON APPLICATION AS ON EMERGENCY RELIEF MEASURE.

THE NEW MAXIMA FOR RENT ALLOWANCE WILL ALSO APPLY TO THOSE WHO ARE TENANTS IN PRIVATE HOUSING.

THE NEW SCALE OF THE RENT ALLOWANCE IS AS FOLLOWS :-

NO. OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.	1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-12
EXISTING MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCES \$	41	82	130	160	176	176
NEW MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCES \$	63	190	285	345	406	557

ANYONE WHO IS IN DOUBT AS TO THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT HIS NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD OFFICE.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR POSTMEN
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HONG KONG POSTMEN HAD A PARTICULARLY BUSY TIME DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1976 WHEN THEY HANDLED AN ALL-TIME RECORD OF 274.8 MILLION POSTAL ITEMS — AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION ITEMS EVERY DAY.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, 98 PER CENT OF ALL LOCAL LETTERS WERE DELIVERED BY THE NEXT WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING AND A SIMILAR PERCENTAGE OF ALL INCOMING AIRMAIL WAS DELIVERED BY THE NEXT WORKING DAY AFTER ITS ARRIVAL AT KAI TAK AIRPORT.

ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A YEAR OF DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS BOTH IN THE QUANTITY OF MAIL HANDLED AND THE QUALITY IN WHICH THEY WERE HANDLED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID TODAY.

REVENUE FROM POSTAL AND REMITTANCE SERVICE FOR THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$250 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 36 PER CENT WHILE EXPENDITURE TOTALLING \$148.4 MILLION SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 31.6 PER CENT.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LETTERS HANDLED DURING THE YEAR INCREASED TO 271.5 MILLION, WHICH WAS 3.7 PER CENT ABOVE THE NUMBER IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE INCREASE WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO AN UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF LOCAL LETTERS POSTED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF THE PARCELS HANDLED, FELL BY 1.8 PER CENT FROM SOME 3.34 MILLION IN 1974/75 TO 3.28 MILLION IN 1975/76.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DECREASE WAS DUE TO A FALLING OFF IN THE NUMBER OF PARCELS POSTED TO CHINA. HOWEVER, FOR THE FOURTH SUCCESSIVE YEAR, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER POSTED FOR LOCAL DELIVERY WHICH AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN 104,000 AND WAS 16 PER CENT MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

HE SAID THE WORLD-WIDE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT MORE THAN HALF OF ALL THE MAIL HANDLED BY THE POST OFFICE WAS EITHER SENT TO, OR RECEIVED FROM, PLACES ABROAD.

+THERE CAN BE VERY FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD IN WHICH THE POST OFFICE HANDLES SO HIGH A PROPORTION OF FOREIGN MAIL,+ HE ADDED.

DURING THE YEAR, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE PROVISION AND EXPANSION OF SPECIAL POSTAL FACILITIES CATERING FOR THE RAPID AND RELIABLE TRANSMISSION OF BUSINESS DOCUMENTS AND COMMERCIAL PAPERS.

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THE 'SPEEDPOST' SERVICE OPERATES TO BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, BRAZIL, JAPAN AND BELGIUM. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE POST OFFICE COLLECTS ITEMS FROM CUSTOMERS' PREMISES ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS AND IMMEDIATELY DESPATCHES THEM TO THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION WHERE THEY ARE SPECIALLY HANDLED TO ENSURE QUICK DELIVERY.

A RECIPROCAL 'ON DEMAND' SERVICE WAS INAUGURATED WITH THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN MAY AND AUGUST LAST YEAR RESPECTIVELY. THIS HAS MET THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR, PRE-DETERMINED REQUIREMENT FOR THE ULTRA-FAST TRANSMISSION OF DOCUMENTS.

REVENUE FROM THIS SOURCE AMOUNTED TO \$1.4 MILLION FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WHICH WAS 88 PER CENT MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE 'EXPRESS' MAIL SERVICE, WHICH BEGAN IN 1974, NOW OPERATES ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS WITH NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES. DURING THE YEAR, OVER 400,000 ITEMS WERE DESPACHED FROM HONG KONG IN THIS SERVICE.

FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE YEAR WERE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC. THEY INCLUDED ONE COMMEMORATING THE ROYAL VISIT.

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CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR EMPLOYERS OF THE DISABLED
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SEVENTEEN COMPANIES WILL BE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED.

COMING FROM NINE DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING ELECTRONICS, GARMENTS, OPTICAL, TOYS AND WATCH-MAKING, THESE ORGANISATIONS HAVE DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUS ENTHUSIASM TOWARDS THE EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE FOLLOWED BY A TEA PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CAUSEWAY ROOM OF THE LEE GARDENS HOTEL AT 10.30 A.M.

ABOUT 50 GUESTS FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, REHABILITATION CIRCLES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE PARTY WHICH PROVIDES THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON EMPLOYMENT AND VIEWS ON REHABILITATION WORK.

NOTE TO EDITORS : -

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE FUNCTION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CAUSEWAY ROOM ON 22ND FLOOR OF THE LEE GARDENS HOTEL AT 10.30 A.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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HARD-SIZE

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GOVERNOR VISITS YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY VISITED A YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP NEAR PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR -- AND CONFESSED THAT HE WAS TEMPTED TO STAY AND JOIN THE GROUP.

SIR MURRAY ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER AT 3 P.M. IN BRILLIANT SUNSHINE AND EXTENDED HIS SCHEDULED HALF-HOUR STAY BY NEARLY 15 MINUTES.

SIXTY YOUNG MEN AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 25 ARE TAKING PART IN THE FOUR-DAY CAMP WHICH HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SIX DISTRICTS YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

SIR MURRAY WAS GREETED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TAI PO, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, WHO INTRODUCED HIM TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR. RAYMOND PANG HANG-YIN, AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LOCAL DIGNITORIES.

SIR MURRAY SPENT THE FIRST PART OF THE VISIT CHATTING TO INSTRUCTORS FROM THE FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUP WHO WERE TEACHING THE THEORY OF CANOEING.

THEN HE WALKED TO THE BANKS OF TOLO HARBOUR WHERE ANOTHER GROUP WAS CANOEING -- SOME OF THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AFTER WATCHING THE YOUNGSTERS GO THROUGH THEIR PACES, AND TAKING A +PADDLES UP+ SALUTE FROM THEM, SIR MURRAY TOLD LOCAL OFFICIALS: +THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THEMSELVES. IT'S A TEMPTATION TO STAY TO HAVE A SWIM, OR GO SAILING.+

BUT WITH HIS BUSY SCHEDULE PRESSING, THE GOVERNOR INSTEAD HAD TO RE-BOARD HIS HELICOPTER FOR ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT.

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SAMPLE
HARD-SIZE

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LADY MACLEHOSE SEES CAMPERS AT WORK
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LADY MACLEHOSE BRAVED THE RAIN THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TO VISIT THE SCHOOL FORESTRY WORK CAMP AT WONG NEI CHUNG FOREST OFFICE.

THE SIX-DAY CAMP, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, FORMS PART OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

TWO TEACHERS AND 18 PUPILS OF THE BUDDHIST SIN TAK COLLEGE ARE TAKING PART AND THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMP IS TO PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION IN COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVIC AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG.

LADY MACLEHOSE WAS MET ON HER ARRIVAL BY MRS. L. MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR, AND MR. K.K. LAI, SCIENCE INSPECTOR, BOTH FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT= MR. K.C. IU AND MR. K.K. YEUNG, FORESTRY OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, AND MRS. LAM MOK SAU-HING, PRINCIPAL OF THE BUDDHIST SIN TAK COLLEGE.

LADY MACLEHOSE BEGAN HER TOUR BY VISITING THE BARRACK-TYPE ACCOMMODATION. SHE TALKED TO THE TEACHER AND PUPIL CAMPERS AND ENQUIRED ABOUT THEIR DOMESTIC DUTIES.

SHE THEN PROCEEDED TO WONG NEI CHUNG FOREST PLANTATION TO SEE CAMPERS AT WORK.

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SPECIAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

A SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMME HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE LAM TIN ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE (EAST) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR 60 PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE PROJECT, 'PHAB AND YOU', AIMS TO PROVIDE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED, TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED, AND TO INTRODUCE THE PHAB CONCEPT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE ACTIVITIES ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE EVERY SATURDAY BETWEEN 7.30 P.M. AND 9.30 P.M. UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH AT THE HALL OF THE LAM TIN ESTATE WELFARE BUILDING (EAST).

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES CHESS PLAYING, MUSIC APPRECIATION AND QUIZ COMPETITION= AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES SUCH AS FILM SHOWS, EDUCATIONAL TALKS, VISITS AND HOLIDAY CAMPS.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. SATURDAY (AUGUST 7) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PO ON ROAD, PRATAS STREET, KWONG LEE ROAD AND SHEUNG FAT STREET. (INCLUDING FAT TSEUNG STREET, TONKIN STREET AND BLOCK NOS. 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 AND 15, LEI CHENG UK ESTATE).

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