



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1977

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EXTENSION OF LEGAL AID TO ALL DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL
CASES LIKELY FROM APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR

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A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND LEGAL AID TO ALL CRIMINAL CASES IN
DISTRICT COURTS IS LIKELY TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM APRIL 1 NEXT
YEAR.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECENTLY ACCEPTED THE FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSED MOVE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COST
AN ADDITIONAL \$3.64 MILLION DURING THE FOUR YEARS FROM 1978/79 -
1981/82.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID LEGAL AID WAS NOW AVAILABLE IN
CRIMINAL CASES - SUBJECT TO MEANS TESTED LIMITS OF MONTHLY
DISPOSABLE INCOME OF \$1,500 AND A DISPOSABLE CAPITAL OF \$10,000
AS FOLLOWS:

- * IN ALL CRIMINAL TRIALS IN THE HIGH COURT=
- * IN ALL CRIMINAL APPEALS TO THE COURT OF APPEAL
FROM THE HIGH AND DISTRICT COURTS=
- * IN ALL CRIMINAL APPEALS TO THE HIGH COURT FROM THE
MAGISTRATES COURT=
- * TO ANY RESPONDENT TO AN APPLICATION BY THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR A
REVIEW OF SENTENCE= AND
- * TO ANY PERSON ACCUSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
AN OFFENCE CARRYING A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 14
YEARS OR MORE.

HE SAID THAT, OUT OF 4,172 ACCUSED IN DISTRICT COURT CASES
DURING THE FOUR YEARS PERIOD 1973/74 - 1976/77, 2,156 HAD BEEN
GRANTED LEGAL AID. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 6,500 ACCUSED WOULD
APPEAR BEFORE THE DISTRICT COURT BETWEEN 1977/78 - 1981/82, WITH
5,850 OF THEM OBTAINING LEGAL AID.

IT IS NOT EXPECTED AT PRESENT THAT EXTRA STAFF WILL BE
NEEDED AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE LEGAL AID
SYSTEM.

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EMPLOYMENT CHANGES IN SEPTEMBER

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MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT SHOWED A SEASONAL DECLINE WHILE
EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS
SERVICES REGISTERED AN INCREASE, ACCORDING TO THE THIRD QUARTER
EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS
DEPARTMENT.

A TOTAL OF 758,300 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING
ESTABLISHMENTS AS AT SEPTEMBER 15 - A DECREASE OF ABOUT 17,500
OR 2.3 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 775,800 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE
PREVIOUS QUARTER OF JUNE.

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COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING QUARTER LAST YEAR, THE FIGURE SHOWS A DECLINE IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT THIS YEAR BY 20,500 PERSONS OR 2.6 PER CENT.

THE MAIN DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN WEARING APPAREL, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, WHICH WERE LARGELY DUE TO STUDENT WORKERS LEAVING THE FACTORIES FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF OVERSEAS CHRISTMAS ORDERS AND EXPIRY OF THE SUMMER VACATION.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY GROUPS REMAINED WEARING APPAREL= TEXTILES= ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES= PLASTIC PRODUCTS= AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS. A COMPARATIVE EMPLOYMENT TABLE IS GIVEN BELOW :

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1977	PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1977	CHANGE OF SEPT. 1977 OVER JUNE 1977	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	273,089	256,408	248,737	-7,671	-3.0
TEXTILES	117,908	106,019	104,500	-1,519	-1.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES	88,872	93,561	91,776	-1,785	-1.9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	79,427	87,753	81,476	-6,277	-7.2
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	66,152	72,241	71,027	-1,214	-1.7

IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES THERE WERE 80,200 PERSONS ENGAGED AS AT AUGUST 15, 1977.

OF THESE, 30,038 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS, AND 11,652 PERSONS IN REAL ESTATE COMPANIES.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 76,000 PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAY 1977, THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 4,200 PERSONS OR 5.5 PER CENT. COMPARED WITH THE NUMBER OF 70,600 PERSONS ENGAGED IN AUGUST 1976, HOWEVER, THE INCREASE WAS 9,600 PERSONS OR 13.6 PER CENT.

MAIN INCREASES FROM MAY TO AUGUST 1977 WERE RECORDED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS (+1,170), ACCOUNTING, AUDITING AND BOOK-KEEPING SERVICES (+813), AND REAL ESTATE COMPANIES (+611).

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THE FOLLOWING ARE MAIN INCREASES AND DECREASES AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR LEVEL BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER :

<u>INDUSTRY SECTOR</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1976</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1977</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEPT. 1977</u>	<u>CHANGE OF SEPT. 1977 OVER JUNE 1977</u>	
				<u>PERSONS ENGAGED</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>					
GARMENTS EXCEPT KNITWEAR DIRECT FROM YARN	217,424	201,800	194,449	-7,351	-3.6
PLASTIC TOYS	42,701	47,760	43,992	-3,768	-7.9
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	70,744	75,134	72,210	-2,924	-3.9
MISCELLANEOUS PLASTIC PRODUCTS	29,958	32,484	30,118	-2,366	-7.3
COTTON WEAVING	32,591	27,081	25,083	-1,998	-7.4
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	12,415	13,579	14,401	+822	+6.1
<u>FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN AUG. 1976</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAY 1977</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED IN AUG. 1977</u>	<u>CHANGE OF AUG. 1977 OVER MAY 1977</u>	
				<u>PERSONS ENGAGED</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>
MONETARY INSTITUTIONS	27,578	28,868	30,038	+1,170	+4.1
ACCOUNTING, AUDITING AND BOOK-KEEPING SERVICES	3,380	3,295	4,108	+813	+24.7
REAL ESTATE	10,039	11,041	11,652	+611	+5.5
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	8,835	8,923	9,390	+467	+5.2

DETAILED FIGURES OF EMPLOYMENT FOR OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS AND BREAKDOWNS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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WATERWORKS REGULATIONS ON METRIC UNITS
EFFECTIVE TOMORROW

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THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 WHICH AIM TO CHANGE THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE WATERWORKS REGULATIONS FROM IMPERIAL TO METRIC UNITS, WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

AT THE SAME TIME, REFERENCES TO BRITISH STANDARDS CONTAINED IN THE REGULATIONS WILL ALSO BE UPDATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE CHANGES WERE OF A PURELY TECHNICAL NATURE AND WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD CONSUMERS.

DOMESTIC WATER USERS, HE STRESSED, WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR METERS READ IN IMPERIAL UNITS AND THEIR BILLS CHARGED ACCORDING TO THE IMPERIAL UNIT OF 1,000 GALLONS.

+IN OTHER WORDS, DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDERS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR WATER BILLS AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING UP TO NOW UNTIL THE WATERWORKS BILLING SYSTEM HAS BEEN COMPUTERISED TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS. THIS WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS AT WHICH TIME CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE TIMING OF THE CHANGE OVER TO METRIC,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT CHANGES WHICH ARE COMING INTO EFFECT TOMORROW ARE TECHNICAL ONES RELATED TO PIPES, FITTINGS, TAPS AND VALVES.

THE METRIC MEASUREMENTS IN MOST CASES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT TO EXACT EQUIVALENTS TO THE NON-METRIC MEASUREMENTS BEING USED.

HE SAID THAT THE CONVERSION TO METRIC SPECIFICATIONS WOULD MEAN NO DIFFERENCE IN COST SUCH AS FOR CONNECTIONS OR FIRE SERVICE CHARGES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE AMENDED REGULATIONS WILL IMPOSE NO HARDSHIP ON IMPORTERS WHO CAN USE EXISTING STOCKS OF PIPES OR FITTINGS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE WATERWORKS OFFICE AND MAY CONTINUE TO USE SUCH MATERIALS WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO BE GENERALLY MANUFACTURED.

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NUMBER OF FIRES THIS YEAR SHATTER RECORD
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO ALMOST 10,000 FIRE CALLS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR - A FIGURE HIGHER THAN ANY PREVIOUS ANNUAL RECORD.

THE FIGURE ALSO SHOWS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 20 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR. JOHN MARCH, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THIS YEAR'S FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

ACCORDING TO MR. MARCH, THE FIRES SO FAR THIS YEAR HAD CLAIMED 44 LIVES AND INJURED OVER 650 PEOPLE.

+THE MAJORITY OF THESE DEATHS AND INJURIES WERE CAUSED BY FIRES IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES,+ HE SAID, CITING AS EXAMPLE THE RECENT TRAGIC FIRE IN ABERDEEN WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF THREE CHILDREN.

+IT IS IN THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, THAT WE ARE CONCENTRATING OUR FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR,+ HE STRESSED.

THE THEME OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC TO BE AWARE OF THE FIRE HAZARDS ARISING SIMPLY THROUGH CARELESSNESS AND THOUGHTLESSNESS IN ORDINARY HOUSEHOLDS AND PUBLIC AREAS WITHIN BUILDINGS.

TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE ASSISTANCE OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES COVERING OVER 2,000 MULTI-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ENLISTED.

+ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES TO VISIT THEIR LOCAL FIRE STATIONS TO ENABLE THEM TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LIAISON, SEEK ADVICE AS NECESSARY AND ATTEND LECTURES ON BASIC HOME FIRE PREVENTION FROM FIRE OFFICERS,+ MR. MARCH SAID.

THEY ARE EXPECTED TO CONVEY THE FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGES TO RESIDENTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE BUILDINGS.

MR. MARCH SAID, +WITH NEW MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES BEING FORMED EVERY DAY IT IS POSSIBLE THIS INVOLVEMENT WILL BECOME AN ON-GOING COMMITMENT+.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT NEW FIRE PREVENTION PUBLICITY MATERIALS, INCLUDING FILMS, PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR THIS CAMPAIGN.

ONE OF THE POSTERS LISTING ALL THE +DO'S AND DON'TS+ IN FIRE PREVENTION WAS PRINTED ON METAL SHEETS AND WILL BE PUT UP IN PROMINENT PLACES IN UP TO 3,000 RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND HOUSING ESTATES.

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RACK ROOM FOR SPEEDY DRYING OF FIREMEN'S UNIFORMS

ALL FIRE STATIONS BUILT IN FUTURE ARE TO BE FITTED WITH RACKS IN SPECIAL HEATED ROOMS FOR DRYING FIREMEN'S UNIFORMS.

THE RACK HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER MR. PETER GEORGE, WHO HEADS THE MANAGEMENT UNIT AT FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

MR. GEORGE, WHOSE IDEA HAS WON HIM \$300 FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE STAFF SUGGESTION SCHEME, SAID THAT FIREMEN SOMETIMES HAD A PROBLEM WITH DAMP UNIFORMS AFTER ATTENDING A FIRE OR DRILL, BUT THE USE OF THE RACKS WOULD GREATLY REDUCE THEIR CHANCES OF HAVING TO PUT ON WET CLOTHING.

ITEMS OF UNIFORM, INCLUDING BOOTS, WILL BE PLACED ON THE RACKS WHICH HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE DRYING.

HOT AIR WILL BE CIRCULATED IN THE ROOM TO SPEED UP THE DRYING PROCESS.

THE DRYING RACKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED AT THE NEW TSING YI ISLAND FIRE STATION.

MR. GEORGE RECEIVED HIS CHEQUE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. RON BRIDGE.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, 44 SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY CIVIL SERVANTS UNDER THE STAFF SUGGESTION SCHEME AND FOUR HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR AWARDS. A TOTAL OF \$1,400 HAS BEEN PAID OUT.

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TEN SAI KUNG FLATS SOLD
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SOLD 10 FLATS AT SAI KUNG FOR \$1.22 MILLION.

AT A PUBLIC AUCTION ATTENDED BY ABOUT 150 PEOPLE, THE FLATS WERE SOLD AT PRICES RANGING FROM \$110,000 TO \$146,000. FIVE FLATS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUCTION.

THE 692 SQ. FT. FLATS ARE IN A ROW OF MODERN FIVE-STORY BLOCKS BUILT PRIMARILY TO RE-HOUSE VILLAGERS AFFECTED BY THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME.

IT WAS THE THIRD SALE IN A SERIES OF AUCTIONS PLANNED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE.

EIGHT OF THE FLATS SOLD TODAY ARE IN MAN NIN STREET AND OTHERS IN YI CHUN STREET.

THE FLAT WHICH RECEIVED THE HIGHEST BID IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF MAN NIN STREET. IT WAS SOLD AT \$146,000.

OTHER MAN NIN STREET FLATS ON THE THIRD OF FOURTH FLOOR ATTRACTED BIDS VARYING FROM \$110,000 TO \$134,000.

TWO YI CHUN STREET FLATS WENT UNDER THE HAMMER AT \$110,000 EACH.

BIDDERS AT THE AUCTION HAD THE OPTION OF PAYING CASH OR 50 PER CENT DEPOSIT WITH THEIR BALANCE TO BE PAID BY INSTALMENTS OVER TEN YEARS.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. DEREK DEAR WHO CONDUCTED THE SALES SAID LATER THAT AT LEAST ONE BUYER HAD INDICATED HE WISHED TO PAY FOR THE FLAT UNDER THE INSTALMENT PLAN.

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TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR HK'S WORKING YOUTHS

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A SIGHT-SEEING AND FACTORY TOUR TO THE PHILIPPINES IS BEING ORGANISED FOR YOUNG WORKING PEOPLE BY THE YAUMATI DISTRICT YOUTH CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

THE TOUR, SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE, LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS, WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

ABOUT 170 INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE WORKERS WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE SIX-DAY VISIT.

THE TRIP IS OPEN TO YOUNG WORKERS WITH A MONTHLY INCOME OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 AND THEY MUST BE NOMINATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, SOME OF WHOM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TOUR.

MR. MUI KAN-KIT, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR YAU MA TEI, WHO WILL ALSO BE THE ADVISOR OF THE GROUP SAID: +THE TOUR HAS BEEN ORGANISED NOT ONLY TO HELP YOUNG WORKERS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR ANNUAL SEVEN-DAY PAID LEAVE, BUT ALSO TO ENCOURAGE THE EMPLOYERS TO SPONSOR THE TRIP FOR THEIR STAFF AS A MEANS OF STAFF WELFARE PROGRAMME.+

THE GROUP WILL LEAVE FOR MANILA ON FEBRUARY 7, AND THE VISIT WILL TAKE THEM TO PAGSANJAN AND BAGUIO FOR SIGHT-SEEING. OTHER PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE A FACTORY VISIT TO THE SAN MIGUEL BREWERY AND A CULTURAL NIGHT OUT ARRANGED BY THE PHILIPPINES TOURISM DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE YAUMATI DISTRICT YOUTH CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IS ORGANISING A HARBOUR CRUISE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3.30 P.M. TO PROMOTE THE OVERSEAS TOUR. THE CRUISE WILL BE ATTENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE HARBOUR CRUISE. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE ASKED TO BOARD THE CANNON CRUISER NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. AT THE HONG KONG WATER TOUR PIER, NEXT TO THE STAR FERRY IN KOWLOON.

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