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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1993

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CNTA SYMPATHETIC TO MACS' FREE RENT PLEA  
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHISES WITH MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES (MAC'S) FOR SEEKING RENT EXEMPTION FROM THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY (HKHS).

THIS WAS STATED BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON OF CNTA, MR C C WAN, AT A MEETING WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESIDENTS' RIGHTS IN HOUSING SOCIETY ESTATE AND MANAGEMENT STAFF OF THE HKHS THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED UPON THE REQUEST OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHICH IS SEEKING TO WAIVE RENTS TO SOME 50 MAC OFFICES IN HKHS ESTATES.

MR WAN SAID THE CNTA HAD BEEN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF THESE MAC'S SINCE MAY 1989.

THE SOCIETY THEN AGREED TO REDUCE RENTS FOR MAC OFFICES IN 1989 FROM \$19 PER SQM TO \$9.5 PER SQM.

"AND FOLLOWING A RECENT TRIENNIAL WELFARE RENT REVIEW WHICH RAISED MAC OFFICE'S RENT TO \$12.5 PER SQM, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED BY WRITING TO THE HKHS REQUESTING THAT RENTS FOR MAC OFFICES BE WAIVED," MR WAN SAID.

AS TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SUBSIDIES TO THESE MAC'S TO COVER THEIR RENTS, MR WAN SAID THE EXISTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR MAC'S WAS MEANT TO SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE FOR THE FORMATION OF THESE SELF-HELP RESIDENT ORGANISATIONS.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, MAC'S ARE ENTITLED TO CLAIM REIMBURSEMENTS FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE UP TO A LIMIT OF \$700 PER QUARTER.

HOWEVER, MR WAN EXPLAINED THAT THAT AMOUNT WAS NOT MEANT TO COVER ALL EXPENSES INCURRED BY MAC'S.

"THIS IS BECAUSE UNLIKE WELFARE AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, MAC'S ARE SELF-HELP ORGANISATIONS FORMED VOLUNTARILY TO PROMOTE MUTUAL RELIANCE AND NEIGHBOURLINESS AMONG MEMBERS AND, FOR THIS REASON COULD NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE SUBVENTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SAME FOOTING," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY OTHER TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, DISTRICT SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEES, SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATIONS ARE NOT GIVEN ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

BUT MR WAN BELIEVED THIS SHOULD NOT DETER THE WORK OF MACS AS, OUT OF THE EXISTING 4,000 MAC'S, MORE THAN HALF DO NOT HAVE OFFICES BUT STILL MANAGE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN PROVIDING BUILDING MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO THEIR MEMBERS.

"THERE ARE ALSO CASES OF SEVERAL MAC'S SHARING ONE OFFICE SO AS TO REDUCE THEIR RENT BURDEN," HE ADDED.

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BUS AND FERRY SERVICES TO ALLEVIATE MTR CONGESTION

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BUS AND FERRY SERVICES WILL BE STRENGTHENED AS PART OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S EFFORT TO COPE WITH EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND ALONG THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY-NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) TWO NEW BUS ROUTES WOULD BE INTRODUCED. THE ONE FROM BAYVIEW GARDEN TO CENTRAL WILL START IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH AND THE OTHER ONE FROM SHEK YAM TO TSIM SHA TSUI WILL START IN EARLY JULY.

BUS SERVICES BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND CENTRAL WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED IN STAGES BETWEEN MAY AND JULY. THESE INCLUDE ROUTES 81C, 258C, 259B, 260B, 268B, 300, 307 AND 336.

FERRY SERVICE FROM TUEN MUN TO CENTRAL WILL ALSO BE STRENGTHENED. A NEW FERRY SERVICE FROM GOLD COAST TO CHINA HONG KONG FERRY TERMINAL WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE NEW SERVICES WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CHOICE FOR COMMUTERS.

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VIEWS ON OPERATION OF  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES SOUGHT

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) INVITED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OPERATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUP'S TIN YIU CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE CUM STUDY/READING ROOM, MR STRACHAN SAID A WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES HAD COMPILED A DRAFT REPORT, WHICH WOULD BE PUT OUT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION NEXT MONTH.

THE WORKING PARTY WAS SET UP IN MARCH LAST YEAR TO CONDUCT A REVIEW ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES TO ENSURE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

"AS HONG KONG ENTERS A PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANT TRANSITION, IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT, HELP AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY," MR STRACHAN SAID.

ONE SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATION OF THE REPORT WAS THE CONCEPT OF TEAM APPROACH, HE NOTED.

"RESOURCES CURRENTLY DISPERSED IN DIFFERENT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE POOLED TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME MANAGEMENT TO FLEXIBLY MEET THE DIFFERENT NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A DISTRICT," HE ADDED.

/IT IS .....

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IN EACH CATCHMENT AREA WITH A YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION OF AROUND 12,000, ONE INTEGRATED TEAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICE, OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION AS THEIR CORE SERVICES.

"I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO HELP US IMPROVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES. WE WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM COLLECTIVE WISDOM," MR STRACHAN SAID.

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### THE TALE OF THREE BOYS

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TWO BOYS WHO WERE SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT OF PLAYING BIG BROTHERS CUDDLED A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD RUNAWAY TO THE SAFETY OF THE POLICE - WITH THE HELP OF A TOY-LIKE WATCH.

THE BEWILDERED BOY'S LIKELY NIGHTMARISH ADVENTURE ENDED IN THE ARMS OF HIS FATHER WHO HAD BEEN HOT ON THE HEELS FOR HOURS IN THE POLICE STATION, WAITING FOR NEWS OF HIS MISSING SON.

THE DUO ARE 13-YEAR-OLD RICKY CHAN AND 15-YEAR-OLD CHAU LIK-HANG, BOTH ARE CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) CADETS.

THEY WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) PRESENTED WITH BEST SERVICE CASE CADETS SOUVENIR, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CIVIC AWARENESS AND INITIATIVE TO HELP.

CAS CADET COMMANDANT, MR LOH WING-KWAN, SAID THEY HAD GIVEN THE SPIRIT OF "CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY. INITIATIVE TO SERVE" A FULL PLAY.

"IT WAS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED BUT WE WERE EXCITED TO HAVE BEEN COMMENDED," RICKY SAID.

THE KWUN TONG POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LAU CHUN-SING, HAD EARLIER APPRECIATED IN WRITING THEIR SENSE OF CIVIC DUTY AND INITIATIVE WHICH SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

CONGRATULATION LETTERS WERE SENT TO CAS'S CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR F S KAVANAGH AND THE BOYS' SCHOOL HEADMASTER.

ON MARCH 13, WHEN RICKY AND LIK-HANG WERE ON THE WAY TO THE CAS TSEUNG KWAN O CADET UNIT FOR ROUTINE TRAINING, THEY SAW A LITTLE BOY TOYING A TROLLEY IN PO HONG ROAD.

INTUITIVE FEELING DEVELOPED DURING THE COURSE OF TRAINING TELL THEM THAT THE SITUATION MAY BE CREEPY FOR THE BOY.

THEY WALKED UP TO THE BOY AND SHOWED OFF THEIR SKILL LEARNT IN THE CADETSHIP, IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THE AFFECTION IN THE BOY.

"WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS? WHY ARE YOU ALONE HERE? WHERE DO YOU LIVE?....."

THE BOY HELD HIS TONGUE AND GAZED AT THEM DULL AND UNINSPIRING, ONLY KEPT ON MURMURING TO HIMSELF.

"WE THOUGHT HE MAY BE MENTALLY DISTURBED AND WE DECIDED TO TAKE HIM TO THE POLICE," LIK-HANG SAID.

BUT THE BOY PUT UP A STRUGGLE AND STAYPUT.

JUST THEN HE HEARD BEEPS FROM RICKY'S ALARM WATCH.

THIS WORKS A MIRACLE. HE WAS AMAZED. RICKY IMMEDIATELY GAVE HIM THE WATCH. THEY THEN TOOK TURN TO CARRY HIM TO THE TSEUNG KWAN O POLICE STATION, WITH THE OTHER PULLING THE TROLLEY ALONG THE WAY.

THIS WAS A TUMBLING AND DISCOURAGING JOURNEY. IT TOOK THEM 25 MINUTES TO GET TO THE STATION.

"HE WAS VERY HEAVY... AND RESTLESS TOO," LIK-HANG CONFESSED, HE WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS HIS SENIOR.

BUT THEIR EFFORTS BORE FRUIT. THE BOY'S FATHER WAS ALREADY WAITING AT THE POLICE STATION.

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YAU TSIM OUTSTANDING STUDENTS HONOURED  
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TEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS IN THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT WERE PRESENTED WITH THE "OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AWARD" TODAY (SATURDAY).

THEY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FROM 35 NOMINEES FOR THEIR SOUND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BART IRELAND, SAID THE AWARD SCHEME WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC PURSUIT AS WELL AS ENHANCING THEIR CIVIC AWARENESS AND ENTHUSIASM IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

HE PRAISED THE ORGANISER, THE SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE, FOR PROMOTING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CIVIC EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

MR IRELAND SAID THE COMMITTEE, FORMED UNDER THE DISTRICT OFFICE, HAD ESTABLISHED CLOSE LINKS AMONG SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT AND HAD ENABLED PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO SHARE EXPERIENCE ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN.

HE HOPED THAT MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY WITH SELFLESS ENTHUSIASM SO THAT A HEALTHIER AND BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY CAN BE REALISED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	\$ MILLION
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,060
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,080
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,135
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	945
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 111.8 **0.0* 1.5.93

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