



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1975

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DECORATIONS TO MARK ROYAL VISIT
DESIGNS SHOULD NOT DETRACT FROM HONG KONG'S OWN COLOUR
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WHEN THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH VISIT HONG KONG IN MAY, DECORATIONS OF BUILDINGS AND INTERESTING URBAN LANDMARKS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO DETRACT FROM HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR COLOUR AND PICTURESQUENESS.

EXPLAINING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE IDEA IS TO ENABLE THE ROYAL COUPLE TO SEE AS MUCH OF HONG KONG AS IT REALLY IS. EXCESSIVE DECORATION CAN HAVE THE EFFECT OF DISTRACTING THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE FROM HONG KONG'S OWN NATURAL BEAUTY AND CHARM.+

THE SPOKESMAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A CENTRAL DECORATIVE THEME, BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT THIS SHOULD BE LEFT TO PUBLIC INITIATIVE, WHICH COULD RESULT IN +MORE VARIED, MORE COLOURFUL, AND MORE INTERESTING DISPLAYS.+

+HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP FIRMS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM DECORATING THEIR OWN PREMISES, PROVIDED THAT THIS DOES NOT OBSTRUCT PUBLIC VIEW OR MOVEMENT ALONG THE PAVEMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THERE IS ALSO NO OBJECTION TO THE SETTING UP OF CEREMONIAL ARCHES, OR PAI LAUS, AT SUITABLE SITES.+

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DECORATE EDINBURGH PLACE, AND THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES WILL BE BRIGHTENED UP WITH POTTED FLOWERS ATTACHED TO THE CENTRAL DIVIDES.

CONCERNING THE LATTER, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY AT WORK GETTING READY SUFFICIENT FLOWERS IN TIME FOR USE DURING THE ROYAL VISIT.

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+POOR+ RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PHONE HEARINGS
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THE RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION TO APPEAR BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE TELEPHONE COMPANY DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS +POOR+.

THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, MR. DONALD TSANG SAID THAT UP UNTIL LATE THIS AFTERNOON ONLY TWO PEOPLE HAD CONTACTED HIM AND ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION IN PUBLIC.

+THIS IS SURPRISING,+ HE SAID, +PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE APPARENTLY STRONG PUBLIC REACTION TO THE PROVISIONAL INCREASES APPROVED LAST MONTH.+

MR. TSANG EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, AT THIS STAGE, WAS TO RECORD EVIDENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ON MATTERS FALLING WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION.

HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE ALSO WELCOME TO REQUEST HEARINGS IN PRIVATE OR TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS.

MR. TSANG EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT SUMMON WITNESSES TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

MR. TSANG REPEATED HIS REQUEST THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION DURING THE COMING OPEN HEARINGS SHOULD TELEPHONE HIM AND OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT. HIS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 5-95334.

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CONSULTANT PRAISES ADDICTION TREATMENT IN HONG KONG
BUT SEES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL APPROACHES

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A VISITING CONSULTANT ON DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT FROM AMERICA, DR. ROBERT NEWMAN, HAS SPOKEN HIGHLY OF HONG KONG'S TREATMENT PROGRAMMES WHICH HE SAYS ARE +AS EFFECTIVE AS ANY COMPARABLE PROGRAMMES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.+

HOWEVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EXISTING PROGRAMMES TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY NEW APPROACHES TO REACH A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE LOCAL ADDICT POPULATION.

DR. NEWMAN, WHO HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE ADDICTION PROGRAMMES OF THE NEW YORK CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, IS WINDING UP HIS TWO-MONTH VISIT TO LOOK INTO THE OVERALL EFFORTS MADE IN HONG KONG TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ADDICTION.

HIS VISIT IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS, HE HAS VISITED THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S METHADONE MAINTENANCE CENTRES AND HAS HAD TALKS WITH VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS CONCERNED WITH THE DRUG ADDICTION PROBLEM.

DR. NEWMAN SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE FIELD OF ADDICTION, BUT HE FELT THAT MORE SHOULD AND COULD BE DONE TO +REACH OUT+ A GREATER NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS.

+WHILE HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD OF THE EXISTING PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID, +THE FACT IS THAT THEY ARE REACHING OUT ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE ESTIMATED 80,000 ADDICTS.+

HE ADVOCATED THE INTRODUCTION OF AN +AMBULATORY DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME+ -- A SHORT-TERM TREATMENT REQUIRING NO HOSPITALISATION.

THIS TREATMENT, HE SAID, COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE QUITE ECONOMICALLY AND COULD ATTRACT APPLICANTS IN LARGE NUMBERS. IT WOULD INVOLVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF GRADUALLY DECREASING DOSES OF METHADONE UNTIL, AFTER ABOUT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, THE PATIENT IS +DRUG-FREE+ AND NO LONGER DEPENDENT ON DRUGS.

+SUCH WITHDRAWAL TREATMENT IS CLEARLY NOT CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING LONG-TERM CURES FOR MOST PATIENTS, BUT EVEN A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF ABSTINENCE IS OBVIOUSLY OF BENEFIT TO THE PATIENT. AND WHEN MANY THOUSANDS OF ADDICTS CAN BE DETOXIFIED EVERY YEAR, THE IMPACT ON THE GENERAL COMMUNITY WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL,+ HE SAID.

/DR. NEWMAN

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DR. NEWMAN STRESSED THAT IN TREATING A COMPLEX AND CHRONIC CONDITION SUCH AS NARCOTIC ADDICTION, IT WAS WRONG TO VIEW SUCCESS IN ALL-OR-NONE TERMS.

+THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS INDEED AN ALTERNATIVE TO THAT NEXT DOSE OF ILLICIT HEROIN OR OPIUM,+ HE SAID.

THE CONSULTANT SEES A NEED FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF TREATMENT APPROACHES TO TACKLE THE DRUG ADDICTION PROBLEM FROM ALL FRONTS.

ANOTHER NEW TREATMENT TECHNIQUE DR. NEWMAN PROPOSED WAS AN OUT-PATIENT DRUG-FREE PROGRAMME THAT REQUIRES NO CUSTODIAL CARE AND THE ASSOCIATED SEPARATION FROM FAMILY AND EMPLOYMENT.

+IT IS WRONG TO ASSUME THAT ANY ONE FORM OF TREATMENT CAN, BY ITSELF, SOLVE THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

DR. NEWMAN WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT HIS PROPOSALS TO THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA. HIS SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, ACAN.

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SPRING PARTY FOR THE ELDERLY

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SOME 500 ELDERLY RESIDENTS FROM WESTERN DISTRICT WHO ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ARE TO BE TREATED TO A SPRING PARTY ON SUNDAY (MARCH 9).

THE GUESTS, ALL OF WHOM ARE OVER THE AGE OF 65, WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY THE CHINESE DRAMA GROUP OF RADIO HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE OPERA TROUPE OF THE CHUNG SHAN CLANSMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL RECEIVE GIFT PARCELS OF BISCUITS, MILK, MEDICINAL OINTMENT AND OTHER ITEMS DONATED MAINLY BY THE FRIESLAND TRADING COMPANY, PACIFIC BISCUIT AND CONFECTIONARY COMPANY LTD., NESTLE'S PRODUCTS (H.K.) LTD., AND KUN WING FOOK MEDICINE COMPANY.

THE PARTY IS ORGANISED BY FOUR SERVICE GROUPS ATTACHED TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WILL BE HELD AT KING'S COLLEGE IN BONHAM ROAD FROM 2.30 TO 5 PM.

IT IS BEING FINANCED FROM FUNDS RAISED LAST MONTH AT A VARIETY SHOW ORGANISED BY FIVE YOUTH GROUPS IN THE CENTRE.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

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WATERWORKS STAFF ARE TO CONDUCT ANOTHER TEST FOR LEAKAGE IN WONG TAI SIN DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SATURDAY (MARCH 8).

TO FACILITATE THE TEST, WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE AREA WILL BE TEMPORARILY TURNED OFF BETWEEN 1 AM AND 6 AM ON SATURDAY.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHA TIN PASS ROAD AND SHEUNG TAK STREET, INCLUDING LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE BLOCKS 3 TO 5, 15, 18 AND KAI MING LAU.

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