



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1975

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MORE INFORMAL APPROACH IN ENGLISH TEACHING NEEDED

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THE NEED FOR A MORE INFORMAL AND ACTIVITY-BASED APPROACH IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN HONG KONG PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS STRESSED TODAY BY MR. JOHN TANDY, PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

†THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON WRITTEN HOMEWORK AND TESTS AND FAR TOO MUCH RELIANCE BY THE TEACHER ON THE TEXTBOOK, PARTICULARLY AT THE PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL WHERE THE TEXTBOOK SHOULD BE A GUIDE AND REFERENCE BOOK FOR THE TEACHER AND NOT OVER-USED BY PUPILS IN THE CLASSROOM, † HE TOLD A MEETING ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION.

IT WAS NOW VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE NEEDS OF ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE CATERED FOR AND THAT PUPILS IN THE LOWER ABILITY RANGE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED AT THEIR OWN PACE IN THE LEARNING OF ENGLISH, HE STRESSED.

COMMUNICATION, HE SAID, WAS THE MOST NEEDED SKILL IN HONG KONG AND TEACHERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT PUPILS LEAVING SECONDARY SCHOOL SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND CONVERSE IN SIMPLE, EVERYDAY ENGLISH.

THE AVERAGE NATIVE SPEAKER DID NOT USE LONG COMPLICATED CLAUSES, AND SELDOM USED MANY OF THE TENSES FOUND IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS EITHER IN SPEECH OR IN WRITING. THE TREND IN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH AMONG NATIVE SPEAKERS WAS TOWARDS CLEAR EXPRESSION IN SHORT, USUALLY SIMPLE SENTENCES, AND TEACHERS OF ENGLISH WERE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THIS TREND IN THEIR TEACHING.

MR. TANDY SAID THERE WERE GOOD SUPPORT FACILITIES IN HONG KONG TO SECURE STANDARDS OF ENGLISH, AND TEACHERS WERE URGED TO MAKE THE FULLEST USE OF THEM.

HE SPOKE ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, WHICH OPERATES AS PART OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE (ENGLISH) AND HAS A HONG KONG AND KOWLOON UNIT. THE CENTRE RUNS REFRESHER COURSES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1965 OVER 5,000 TEACHERS HAVE ATTENDED THESE COURSES, AND MORE THAN 7,000 ADVISORY FOLLOW-UP VISITS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THESE TEACHERS IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

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THE CENTRE HAS A LARGE SUPPLY OF TAPED MATERIAL WHICH IS DUBBED FREE FOR SCHOOLS (THE SCHOOLS SUPPLYING ONLY THE TAPES), AND TO DATE OVER 13,000 LANGUAGE TEACHING TAPES HAVE BEEN SENT TO SCHOOLS.

THERE IS A SPECIALIST LIBRARY AND INSPECTORS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS TO GIVE ADVICE ON TEACHING METHODS AND PRESENTATION OF TEXTBOOK MATERIAL. + MR. TANDY SAID.

THE ENGLISH SECTION ALSO PRODUCED THE ENGLISH BULLETIN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING NOTES WHICH WERE ISSUED FREE TO SCHOOLS AND PROVIDED PRACTICAL ADVICE ON TEACHING METHODS.

MR. TANDY FELT THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING SITUATION IN HONG KONG WAS IMPROVING, AND THAT TEACHERS WERE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THEY WERE NOW MUCH MORE AWARE OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODS AND, MOREOVER, PREPARED TO USE THEM, BUT THEY NEEDED MORE ENCOURAGEMENT, NOT ONLY FROM THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE BUT ALSO FROM THE HEADS OF THEIR SCHOOLS.

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SWD'S NEW EMERGENCY KITCHEN
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S NEW KITCHEN WHICH SUPPLIES MEALS AND RELIEF ARTICLES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS HAS COME INTO OPERATION.

IT IS SITUATED IN CORNWALL STREET, KOWLOON, NEXT TO THE CHAK YAN BOYS CENTRE AND REPLACES THE OLD KITCHEN PREVIOUSLY LOCATED NEAR THE POLYTECHNIC IN HUNG HOM.

A VISIT IS BEING ARRANGED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW THE KITCHEN WORKS.

THIS WILL BE ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 11) AT 2 P.M. MR. LU YU-HUA, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (OPERATIONS), THE MAN IN CHARGE OF EMERGENCY RELIEF, WILL BE ON HAND TO SHOW MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AROUND AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. THOSE WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY SHOULD MEET AT THE S.W.D.'S PUBLIC RELATION UNIT IN ROOM 528A ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF LEE GARDENS NOT LATER THAN 1.45 P.M. ON TUESDAY.

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NEW MATERNITY LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR WOMEN TEACHERS
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WOMEN TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT AND FULLY AIDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL HAVE THE SAME MATERNITY LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS. THEY MAY BE GRANTED MATERNITY LEAVE OF NORMALLY UP TO 10 WEEKS BASED ON MEDICAL ADVICE.

TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST ONE ACADEMIC YEAR'S OR 12 MONTHS' SERVICE WILL BE GRANTED MATERNITY LEAVE ON HALF-PAY. THOSE WITH LESS THAN ONE ACADEMIC YEAR'S SERVICE WILL BE GRANTED MATERNITY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY.

BOTH CATEGORIES OF TEACHERS WILL HOWEVER RECEIVE FULL PAY DURING THAT PART OF THEIR MATERNITY LEAVE WHICH FALLS WITHIN A MAJOR SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD - CHRISTMAS, EASTER AND SUMMER VACATION. FOR TEACHERS IN FULLY AIDED SCHOOLS CHINESE NEW YEAR MAY REPLACE CHRISTMAS OR EASTER IF IN THEIR SCHOOLS THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY IS LONGER THAN EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO HOLIDAYS.

MATERNITY LEAVE EXCEEDING 10 WEEKS, IF RECOMMENDED BY A DOCTOR, MAY ALSO BE GRANTED UP TO A TOTAL ABSENCE OF SIX MONTHS, BUT THE ADDITIONAL LEAVE WILL BE WITHOUT PAY EXCEPT FOR SUCH PARTS OF THE LEAVE FALLING WITHIN MAJOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING WHICH TEACHERS WILL RECEIVE FULL PAY.

MATERNITY LEAVE IS NOT COUNTED AS SICK LEAVE WHICH IS GOVERNED BY OTHER REGULATIONS. THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR SICK LEAVE ENTITLEMENT TO BE USED FOR MATERNITY LEAVE.

THE REGULATIONS FOR MATERNITY LEAVE FOR TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 1974, THE SAME DATE THAT NEW PROVISIONS GOVERNING MATERNITY LEAVE FOR ALL GOVERNMENT STAFF WERE INTRODUCED.

THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE BEING EXTENDED TO THE FULLY AIDED SCHOOLS AND WILL COME INTO FORCE ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL STAGE OF THE EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN SCHEME ON THAT DATE WHEN THE SALARIES OF WOMEN TEACHERS IN THESE SCHOOLS REACH PARITY WITH THEIR MALE COLLEAGUES.

THE PRESENT MATERNITY LEAVE REGULATIONS ARE SET OUT IN AN APPENDIX TO THE CODE OF AID FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE SUBSIDY CODE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS. GRANT AND SUBSIDISED SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

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MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND TO BE FORMED IN TUEN MUN
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ANOTHER RECLAMATION PROJECT WILL SOON BEGIN IN TUEN MUN AS A FURTHER STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

A TOTAL OF 9,000 SQUARE METRES (0.9 HECTARE) OF LAND WILL BE RECLAIMED BETWEEN MOUSE ISLAND AND THE EXISTING RECLAMATION NEAR TUEN MUN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET. FILL MATERIAL WILL BE EXCAVATED FROM THE HILLSIDE TO THE NORTH-EAST OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR THE 18-1/2 MILESTONE. ABOUT 90,000 CUBIC METRE OF MATERIAL WILL BE REQUIRED.

THE RECLAMATION WILL FORM A PART OF THE INDUSTRIAL LAND IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TEMPORARY USES UNTIL REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH, AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

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COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION - PRESS CONFERENCE
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION, MR. JOHN CHADWICK, WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR, ON TUESDAY (MARCH 11) AT 11 A.M.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND.

THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE LAST THURSDAY MORNING BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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GAMES DAY IN LAM TIN

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A GAMES DAY TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE BETTER USE OF PLAYGROUNDS THROUGH MORE ACTIVE TYPES OF RECREATION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE FOOTBALL PITCH IN TAK TIN STREET, LAM TIN.

SOME 700 YOUTH AND CHILDREN WILL BE COMPETING IN A SERIES OF DIFFERENT GAMES INCLUDING RELAY RACE, SKIPPING, LEAP FROG AND A HOOP RACE.

THE EVENT WILL BE OPENED AT 1.30 P.M. BY MR. CHIU YIM-SHUN, DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER, AND MR. KWOK NAI-SIK, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER, WHOSE OFFICES IN KWUN TONG ARE SPONSORING THE EVENT.

THE ORGANISERS ARE THE TWO LAM TIN ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT- THE FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS' LAM TIN CENTRE- THE YMCA LAM TIN CENTRE AND THE CHURCH OF GALILEE'S CHILDREN CENTRE.

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NEW ROAD BRIDGE IN KOWLOON

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WORK IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT MONTH ON A ROAD BRIDGE AT THE NORTH END OF ANDERSON ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

THE BRIDGE WILL BE ABOUT 10 METERS WIDE AND 62 METERS LONG, WITH FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES.

IT WILL BE LINKED BY APPROACH ROADS TO THE FUTURE ANDERSON ROAD WHICH IS NOW BEING RE-ALIGNED TO RUN FROM THE ANDERSON ROAD SERVICE RESERVOIR TO CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD.

THE BRIDGE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 10 MONTHS.

THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS A SUB-CONTRACT TO A CURRENT CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SERVICE RESERVOIR AND THE REBUILDING OF ANDERSON ROAD.

THE SERVICE RESERVOIR, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IS SITUATED ON THE HILLSIDE OFF ANDERSON ROAD NEAR CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD.

IT WILL HAVE A STORAGE CAPACITY OF TWO MILLION GALLONS WHEN COMPLETED. IT IS PART OF A SCHEME TO EXTEND FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE HIGH LEVEL AREAS IN NEW KOWLOON EAST WHICH INCLUDES SHUN LEE TSUEN.

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OPEN DAY AT MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

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THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WILL OPEN ITS DOORS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON TO SHOW WORK DONE BY STUDENTS.

VISITORS WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT VARIOUS TYPES OF EQUIPMENT IN THE WORKSHOP. THERE WILL BE A FURNITURE DESIGN DISPLAY IN THE INSTITUTE'S HALL. INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS MR. HUGH CAMERON, WHO HAS HAD 12 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRY. HE TAUGHT FOR 10 YEARS AT LANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC IN ENGLAND AND DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN HEAD OF ENGINEERING AT A COLLEGE IN SCUNTHORPE.

MR. CAMERON'S PUBLISHED PAPERS INCLUDE ONE PRESENTED TO THE INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ON THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN DESIGN OF DIESEL ENGINES AND A NUMBER ON ARCHÆOLOGICAL SUBJECTS BASED ON EXCAVATION WORK CARRIED OUT IN ENGLAND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG LAST MONTH, MR. CAMERON HAS VISITED VARIOUS BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE POLYTECHNIC, A NUMBER OF SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, THE KWUN TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SOME FACTORIES AND THE TRAINING CENTRE OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S OPEN DAY TOMORROW BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 6 P.M. MR. CAMERON WILL BE PLEASED TO GIVE INTERVIEWS TO MEMBERS OF THE MASS MEDIA DURING THE OCCASION.

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