



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1981

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DO MORE FOR THE DISABLED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY APPEALED TO LOCAL CHILD CARE CENTRES, STUDENT TEACHERS AND SPONSORS TO DO MORE FOR THE DISABLED IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (IYDP).

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE EVENT AT THE CITY HALL THIS AFTERNOON, SIR MURRAY SAID THE QUANTITY OF SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED WAS INEVITABLY STILL LACKING, BUT IT WOULD BECOME MORE ADEQUATE AS THE PHASES OF THE 1977 WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION WERE PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

+WE REALISE WE ARE ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF A LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD, NEVERTHELESS PROGRESS MADE AND PROVIDED FOR IS ALREADY SOMETHING OF WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

+BUT WE DO RUN UP AGAINST HUMAN FACTORS WHICH I BELIEVE IT IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN IN THE YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS TO OVERCOME.

+FOR INSTANCE I APPEAL TO CHILD CARE CENTRES TO BE MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SMALL NUMBER OF DISABLED CHILDREN OFFERED BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT- I APPEAL TO STUDENT TEACHERS TO APPLY IN GREATER NUMBERS FOR TRAINING AS SPECIAL TEACHERS- AND I APPEAL FOR MORE SPONSORS EITHER FOR SPECIAL CLASSES FOR SLOW LEARNERS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS OR FOR NEW SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY BELIEVED OUR PLANS FOR THE EXPANSION OF BUILDINGS AND SERVICES WERE WELL FOUNDED ON THE POOLED EXPERIENCE OF PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS, OUR WORKERS WERE EXPERT AND DEVOTED, AND THE WORK BEING DONE WAS OF HIGH QUALITY.

BUT HE ADDED THAT IN THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS PRIVATE DEVELOPERS MUST ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER IN THE PRESSURES OF CONSTRUCTION, ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED WAS NOT UNNECESSARILY OR THOUGHTLESSLY BUILT OUT OF STREETS OR INSTITUTIONS OR HOUSING BLOCKS.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE OBJECT OF THE PHASED PROGRAMME IN THE WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION WAS MAXIMUM INTEGRATION OF THE DISABLED IN NORMAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS IS NOT AN OBJECT THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY BUILDING AND MONEY -- THERE IS A VERY LARGE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ELEMENT AS WELL.

THE EFFORT MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE BY GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THE COMMUNITY AND THE DISABLED THEMSELVES, HE STRESSED.

+THE FIRST PROBLEM IS TO MAKE ALL CONCERNED REALISE THAT MOST HANDICAPS CAN BE OVERCOME.

+THE SECOND IS TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES TO ENABLE THIS TO BE DONE.

/+THE THIRD

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+THE THIRD LIES WITH THE HANDICAPPED THEMSELVES. THEY MUST HAVE THE COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE AND FAITH TO BENEFIT FROM THE SERVICES,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

HE WAS SURE THIS WOULD NOT BE WANTING PROVIDED THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY, +BECAUSE NONE OF THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME UNLESS PEOPLE KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR THE DISABLED AND USE IT- ARE PREPARED AND PROUD TO WORK IN REHABILITATION AND SPECIAL CARE SERVICES TO DO IT- WILL ENCOURAGE THE HANDICAPPED, PARTICULARLY THEIR OWN RELATIVES WHILE THEY ARE BEING REHABILITATED- AND FINALLY WILL WELCOME THE REHABILITATED BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY AND NOT FORGET THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS.+

THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THAT IN THE EFFORTS OF THE CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE IYDP (CCCIYDP) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AS TO THE ABILITIES AND NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, NO INFLUENCE COULD BE AS EFFECTIVE AS THE DISABLED THEMSELVES, SIMPLY BY DEMONSTRATING WHAT THEY COULD DO IN SCHOOL, IN WORK, OR IN SPORT.

HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO AFFIRM THE GOVERNMENT'S WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE AIMS AND PRINCIPLES SET DOWN IN A REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL CHARTER FOR THE 80'S WHICH SETS OUT TO IMPROVE REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, PROVISION, INTEGRATION AND INFORMATION.

+INDEED IT IS REASSURING TO NOTE HOW SIMILAR THEY ARE TO THOSE WHICH HONG KONG SET ITSELF IN THE 1977 WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE CHARTER WAS PRESENTED TO SIR MURRAY BY DR HARRY FANG, PRESIDENT OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CCCIYDP IN HONG KONG, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE CEREMONY MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN HONG KONG TO CELEBRATE THE UNITED NATIONS' INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS.

HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR ERIC HO, AND MEMBERS OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 1 200 GUESTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS, SPONSORS AND THE DISABLED THEMSELVES.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WERE FOUR INTERNATIONAL GUESTS WHO HAD COME TO HONG KONG FOR THE CEREMONY. THEY ARE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD PLANNING GROUP FOR THE CHARTER FOR THE 80'S, MR ALFRED MORRIS- THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL, MR NORMAN ACTON- ITS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC, PROF CHARLOTTE FLORO- AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR REHABILITATION OF DISABLED, MR LIONEL WATTS.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, THE GOVERNOR OPENED AN EXHIBITION ENTITLED 'ONE OF US' AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED - REHABILITATION DIVISION OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE - AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISABLED AND TO HELP THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

/APART FROM

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APART FROM GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS, THERE IS A +TRYOUT SECTION+ IN WHICH VISITORS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ON AND USE VARIOUS AIDS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISABLED AND EXPERIENCE FOR THEMSELVES THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM FOR ONE WEEK AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE STAGED IN 11 LOCAL DISTRICTS BY ROTATION UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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CALL FOR MORE JOBS FOR THE DISABLED

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THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT DEPENDS ON EMPLOYERS OFFERING OPEN EMPLOYMENT TO DISABLED PEOPLE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.N. HENDERSON, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH, HE SAID THE SERVICE HAD PLACED 113 DISABLED PERSONS IN OPEN EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AFTER IT WAS SET UP IN JULY. THEY COMPRISED 24 BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED, 13 DEAF, 74 PHYSICALLY OR MEDICALLY DISABLED AND TWO WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITY.

+THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT START BECAUSE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT IS A SLOW AND TIME-CONSUMING ACTIVITY. THE SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT OF ALL THESE DISABLED PERSONS AND THOSE WHO COME IN THE FUTURE WILL DEPEND ON A FAR MORE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM EMPLOYERS THAN AT PRESENT,+ HE NOTED.

MR HENDERSON SAID HIS DEPARTMENT'S PLACEMENT OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO CALL ON EMPLOYERS, TO SEEK MORE JOB OPENINGS FOR THE DISABLED. HOWEVER, HE URGED EMPLOYERS NOT TO WAIT FOR HIS OFFICERS TO CONTACT THEM, BUT TO CALL THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE AS AND WHEN THEY REQUIRED STAFF.

+ANY EMPLOYER CAN SIMPLY PLACE A VACANCY ORDER WITH THE SPS BY CALLING AT THE SPS OFFICE IN NEW RODNEY BLOCK OR TELEPHONING 5-280049 OR 5-282523 EXT. 50,+ HE SAID.

DESCRIBING THE WORK OF THE SPS, MR HENDERSON SAID ITS ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO +HELP A DISABLED PERSON TO RETURN TO A NORMAL WORKING LIFE IN REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT COMPATIBLE WITH HIS APTITUDE, INTERESTS AND CAPACITY SO THAT HE CAN USE HIS AVAILABLE RESIDUAL SKILL TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT.+

THE WORK OF THE SPS INVOLVES THREE DISTINCT PARTS - KNOWING THE WORKER, KNOWING THE JOB AND MATCHING THE WORKER WITH THE JOB.

THE WORK OF THE PLACEMENT OFFICER DOES NOT STOP IMMEDIATELY AFTER A DISABLED PERSON IS PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT. FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AFTER THE PLACEMENT, THE OFFICER WILL FROM TIME TO TIME TELEPHONE OR VISIT THE DISABLED PERSON AND THE EMPLOYER TO SEE HOW THE FORMER IS PROGRESSING.

/+THE PURPOSE

+THE PURPOSE OF THIS FOLLOW-UP ACTION IS TO ENSURE THAT THE DISABLED PERSON REALISES THAT THE PLACEMENT OFFICER'S INTEREST IN HIM DOES NOT STOP AS SOON AS PLACEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, THAT AN OPPORTUNITY IS GIVEN TO REMEDY ANY MINOR MATTERS WHICH MAY BE IMPEDING SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT, AND THAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED WHEREBY THE PLACEMENT SERVICE CAN BE EVALUATED,+ MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL, TOWARDS THE END OF 1981, HOLD A SPECIAL CEREMONY AT WHICH EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PERSONS THROUGH THE SPS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SOUVENIRS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORTS IN INTEGRATING THE DISABLED INTO THE COMMUNITY.

+THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THIS EVENT WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE DEGREE OF THE RESPONSE BY EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG TO THE VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE OF PROVIDING DISABLED PERSONS WITH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH HAS BEEN SO TYPICAL OF HONG KONG.+

LOOKING AHEAD, MR HENDERSON SAID HIS DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO SET UP ANOTHER OFFICE OF THE SPS IN KOWLOON LATER THIS YEAR.

IT ALSO PLANS TO EXTEND A SIMILAR PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE FORMERLY MENTALLY ILL OR MENTALLY RETARDED, IN ITS SECOND PHASE OF OPERATION- AND IN ITS THIRD AND FINAL STAGE, TO OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS, GENERALLY KNOWN AS SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED, HE ADDED.

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RETURN VISIT OF SPECIAL POLICE ADVISERS
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SIR JAMES CRANE, HER MAJESTY'S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY, WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 7 FOR A TWO-WEEK VISIT AT THE REQUEST OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. HE WILL BE PRECEDED BY TWO STAFF OFFICERS, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENTS ALFRED WALLEN AND S. PLEECE, WHO WILL BE ARRIVING ON JANUARY 24.

THIS IS SIR JAMES'S THIRD VISIT TO HONG KONG AND CONTINUES THE FRUITFUL ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE PAST TWO VISITS. HE FIRST CAME HERE IN EARLY 1978 TO ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON THE ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE. A WIDE RANGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DEVELOPED AND A SECOND VISIT, DURING WHICH PROGRESS WAS REVIEWED, TOOK PLACE IN APRIL AND MAY 1979.

DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT SIR JAMES WILL AGAIN BE ASKED TO ADVISE ON VARIOUS MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AS WELL AS TO REVIEW ACTION TAKEN ON SOME OF HIS PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.

HIS TWO STAFF OFFICERS WILL PRECEDE HIM TO CARRY OUT SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL GROUNDWORK IN ADVANCE. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ALFRED WALLEN ACCOMPANIED SIR JAMES ON BOTH HIS 1978 AND 1979 VISITS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS
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COPIES OF PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS OF UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN AND THE HON W.C.L. BROWN WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM GIS PRESS BOXES THIS EVENING.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE FOR YOUR RECORD AND EDITORIAL USE.

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NEW YEAR PARTY FOR 1 000 KWAI CHUNG OLD PEOPLE
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A PARTY IS BEING ORGANISED IN KWAI CHUNG FOR ITS ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TSUEN WAN MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING THE PARTY WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 19 (THE 15TH DAY OF THE FIRST MOON) IN A LOCAL RESTAURANT.

KWAI CHUNG RESIDENTS AGED OVER 70 ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR THE 1 000 TICKETS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

BESIDES A CHINESE BANQUET, CANTONESE OPERA, A LION DANCE AND A LUCKY DRAW WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM KWAI CHUNG TOWN MANAGEMENT OFFICE, KWONG FAI CIRCUIT- KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, BLOCK 26, KWAI CHUNG ESTATE- SHEK LEI PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, BLOCK 14, SHEK LEI ESTATE- AND TSUEN WAN MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, BLOCK 12, KWAI SHING ESTATE.

A KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THOSE WANTING TO ATTEND THE PARTY COULD EITHER COME TO THE OFFICES THEMSELVES OR ASK SOMEONE TO ATTEND FOR THEM. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT WAS AN IDENTITY CARD AS PROOF OF AGE.

HE ADDED THAT STAFF AT THESE OFFICES WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP FILL IN FORMS.

FUNDS FOR THE CELEBRATION ARE BEING DONATED BY LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADER, MR YUEN KWOK-WAH.

TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER, DR JAMES HAYES, WILL BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE PARTY.

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TWO LAND LOTS FOR SALE
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TWO LOTS OF CROWN LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA ON FEBRUARY 12 (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM.

/ONE LOT

ONE LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 2 312 SQUARE METRES NEAR SUN YIP STREET, CHAI WAN, IS FOR GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE OTHER, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3 149 SQUARE METRES AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, IS FOR A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND OTHER NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

UNDER THE SALE CONDITIONS OF THIS SITE, THE SUCCESSFUL BUYER IS REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT AND HAND BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT FREE OF CHARGE A POLICE REPORTING CENTRE, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION AND A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT IN THE BUILDING.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG, AND AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR.

SALE PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE PLACES.

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SPORTS AN ANTIDOTE TO JUVENILE CRIME

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ATHLETIC MEETS ARE HEALTHY OUTLETS FOR YOUTHS TO OCCUPY THEIR LEISURE HOURS AND CAN HELP TO REDUCE THE CHANCES OF THEIR FALLING INTO BAD COMPANY, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT SPORTS DAY OF NINE PRIMARY AND SIX SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY HELD AT MONGKOK STADIUM.

ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE RECENT INCREASE IN JUVENILE CRIME, HE SAID, WAS THAT YOUTHS LACKED A DEFINITE GOAL IN LIFE AND OFTEN FOUND THEMSELVES WITH A LOT OF SPARE TIME ON THEIR HANDS, THUS FALLING EASY PREY TO BAD ELEMENTS.

+THROUGH SPORTS MEETS WE CAN INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO HEALTHY SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND AROUSE THEIR INTERESTS IN COMPETITIONS.

+THEY WILL THEN DEVOTE THEIR SPARE TIME TO PRACTICE WHICH WILL LEAD TO BETTER HEALTH, AND ELIMINATE THE CHANCES OF THEIR GOING ASTRAY,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

TO PREVENT THE INFILTRATION OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS INTO SCHOOLS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAVE ORGANISED A SERIES OF SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ON JANUARY 24. INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE SEMINARS AIM AT GATHERING THE VIEWS OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE PROBLEM, MR LEUNG SAID.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, THE SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT 13 CENTRES- FOUR ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX IN KOWLOON AND THREE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

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Speech by H.E. the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.,
at the Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Disabled Persons, January 16, 1981

Dr Fang, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad to receive this Charter for the 80s on behalf of the Government and people of Hong Kong. We are particularly honoured as this is the first Charter to be presented by you, Dr Fang, and your distinguished colleagues from Rehabilitation International.

I welcome this opportunity to affirm my Government's wholehearted support for the aims and principles set down in the Charter. Indeed it is reassuring to note how similar they are to those which Hong Kong set itself in the 1977 White Paper on Rehabilitation.

The object of the phased programme in the White Paper is maximum integration of the disabled in normal social and economic life. This is not an object that can be achieved by building and money. There is a very large psychological and social element as well. The effort must be comprehensive by Government, voluntary agencies, the community and the disabled themselves.

The first problem is to make all concerned realise that most handicaps can be overcome.

The second is to provide the services to enable this to be done.

The third lies with the handicapped themselves. They must have the courage and persistence and faith to benefit from the services. This I am sure will not be wanting provided they are supported by the community. Because none of these problems can be overcome unless people

/know what

know what can be done for the disabled and use it; are prepared and proud to work in rehabilitation and special care services to do it; will encourage the handicapped, particularly their own relatives while they are being rehabilitated; and finally will welcome the rehabilitated back into the community and not forget their special needs.

I believe our plans for the expansion of buildings and services are well founded on the pooled experience of professionals and administrators; our workers are expert and devoted and the work being done is of high quality. Quantity is inevitably still lacking, but will become more adequate as the phases of the White Paper are progressively implemented. We realise we are only at the beginning of a long and difficult road, nevertheless progress made and provided for is already something of which we can be proud.

But we do run up against human factors which I believe it is one of the principal objectives of the campaign in the Year of the Disabled Persons to overcome. For instance I appeal to child care centres to be more willing to accept the small number of disabled children offered by Social Welfare Department; I appeal to student teachers to apply in greater numbers for training as special teachers; and I appeal for more sponsors either for special classes for slow learners in ordinary schools or for new special schools for mentally handicapped. In this year the Government and private developers too must consider whether in the pressures of construction access for the disabled is not unnecessarily or thoughtlessly built out of streets or institutions or housing blocks.

Hong Kong is an intensely practical place, and I hope that our response to the Year of the Disabled Persons will be practical too.

/Finally I

Finally I should emphasise that in the Committee's efforts to educate the public as to the abilities and needs of the disabled no influence could be as effective as the disabled themselves, simply by demonstrating what they can do in school, in work, or in sport.

I wish the Central Coordinating Committee every success in this year's endeavour, and have much pleasure in declaring open Hong Kong's celebration of the International Year of the Disabled Persons.