DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1980

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TANNERIES IN FACTORY BUILDINGS
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TANNERS CLEARED FROM SHEUNG SHUI IN 1976 TO MAKE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA HAVE RE-ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN MULTI-STOREY FACTORY BUILDINGS IN THE OFFENSIVE TRADES ZONE IN KWAI CHUNG.

TWO TANNERY BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO DATE AND NOW HOUSE A TOTAL OF 28 TANNING COMPANIES, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM CAME FROM SHEUNG SHUI.

THE TANNERS OBTAINED THE LAND FROM THE GOVERNMENT EITHER BY SURRENDERING LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY GRANTS.

THE CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR TIM MILLS, SAID THE BUILDINGS WERE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE TANNERY INDUSTRY.

HE SAID ONE REASON FOR THE REMOVAL FROM SHEUNG SHUI, APART FROM THE LAND BEING REQUIRED FOR A NEW TOWN, HAD BEEN THE HEAVY POLLUTION BEING CAUSED TO THE AREA THROUGH OPERATION OF TANNERIES.

+THE COMPANIES AT KWAI CHUNG HAVE INSTALLED THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EFFLUENT CONTROL EQUIPMENT TO MINIMISE POLLUTION,+ HE SAID. +AS A RESULT, THE LEVEL OF POLLUTION AT KWAI CHUNG IS VERY MUCH LOWER THAN AT SHEUNG SHUI.+

MR MILLS SAID TANNERS WERE PLEASED WITH THEIR NEW SURROUNDINGS, IN COMPARISON WITH THE SITES THEY OCCUPIED AT SHEUNG SHUI.

THEY PREFERRED THE BETTER WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY HAD INCREASED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THEY HAD ALSO BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE QUALITY CONTROL DUE TO A METERED WATER SUPPLY AND THERE HAD BEEN SAVINGS IN TRANSPORT COSTS.

FURTHERMORE, THE SITES WERE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED CLOSE TO URBAN AREAS.

THE HEAD OF A TANNERY CONSORTIA IS MR PAK YIU, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN BUSINESS IN SHEUNG SHUI. HE SAID HE AND HIS PARTNERS WERE OPERATING FROM ONE OF THE TWO NEW BUILDINGS. HE SAID THE 20-STOREY BUILDING WAS USING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE ANTI-POLLUTION SYSTEM FROM EUROPE COSTING NEARLY $2 MILLION.

THE OTHER BUILDING OF 11 STOREYS HAS AN EFFLUENT CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH WAS PURCHASED FROM JAPAN ALSO AT A COST OF NEARLY $2 MILLION.

/MR PAK .....

MR PAK DESCRIBED AS +A RIGHT STEP+ GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MOVE THE TANNERIES FROM SHEUNG SHUI. +WE WERE OBVIOUSLY QUITE RELUCTANT TO MOVE AT THE TIME, BUT WE HAVE BENEFITED BY DOING SO,+ HE SAID. +NOW WE ARE HAPPY TO BE IN THE TANNING BUSINESS KNOWING THAT WE ARE NOT CAUSING THE AWFUL POLLUTION WE WERE AT SHEUNG SHUI.+

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT OTHER TANNERY OPERATORS CLEARED FROM SHEUNG SHUI WOULD RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AT KWAI CHUNG. +THERE ARE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES IN DOING SO,+ HE SAID.

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ACTION STEPPED UP AGAINST COMMERCIAL FRAUD

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THE TRADE INVESTIGATION BRANCH OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT IS APPLYING INCREASING PRESSURE ON UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS TO PROTECT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING REPUTATION OF HONG KONG.

LOCAL CONSUMERS, TOO, WILL BENEFIT FROM REINFORCED ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS.

SOME MANUFACTURERS PROFIT BY FAKING SUPERIOR PRODUCTS. HOWEVER HONG KONG DOES NOT THRIVE ON THEIR MISPLACED INGENUITY AND THEIR MALPRACTICES MUST BE EXPOSED.

COUNTERFEITING COVERS NOT ONLY HIGH FASHION AND ACCESSORIES AND BRAND-NAME WATCHES, BUT ALSO SUCH HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AS DETERGENTS AND TOILET PAPER.

FREQUENTLY SUCH IMITATIONS ARE OF INFERIOR QUALITY AND THUS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS THE TRADING STANDING OF HONG KONG, SUFFER.

LAST YEAR, 77 CASES INVOLVING IMITATION TRADE MARKS OR MISLEADING LABELS WERE TAKEN TO COURT. SOME $1.6 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS WERE SEIZED.

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TRADE INVESTIGATION BRANCH, MR DAVID YIP NOTED THAT THERE WAS NOW INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BUYER'S RIGHTS.

+WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE TRADE MARK OWNERS ON OUR SIDE BUT IT IS PLEASING THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE NOW PREPARED TO BRING CASES OF FALSE LABELLING TO US. OTHER REPORTS ARE BEING FED TO US BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE TOURIST ASSOCIATION,+ HE SAID.

+IF THE WRATH OF THE CONSUMER IS INSUFFICIENT INCENTIVE, THERE IS ALSO A MONETARY REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE SEIZURE OF FAKED WATCHES OR THE CONVICTION OF WATCH COUNTERFEITERS.

+THIS REWARD SCHEME IS OPERATED BY THE SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY INFORMATION CENTRE AND TWO MAJOR JAPANESE WATCH MANUFACTURERS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT,+ SAID MR YIP.

/ANOTHER IMPORTANT .....

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WORK OF THE TRADE INVESTIGATION BRANCH, IN DEFENCE OF HONG KONG'S GOOD TRADING NAME, IS THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN SYSTEM. CHECKS ARE MADE AT FACTORIES AND ON EXPORT CONSIGNMENTS TO ENSURE THEY COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING AND QUOTA REQUIREMENTS OF HONG KONG'S VARIOUS BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

+LAST YEAR, IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES, WE SUCCESSFULLY INVESTIGATED A SERIES OF TRANSHIPMENT FRAUDS DESIGNED TO CIRCUMVENT THE QUOTA ARRANGEMENTS,+ SAID MR YIP.

OFFENDERS FACE HEAVY PENALTIES WHICH INCLUDE THE FORFEITURE OF QUOTAS AND THE SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES OR LICENCES GIVEN THEM BY THE DEPARTMENT. +WE ARE DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT THESE MALPRACTICES IN THE TEXTILE TRADE WHICH ARE COMMITTED BY A VERY FEW, BUT WHICH JEOPARDISE HONG KONG'S TRADING INTEGRITY,+ MR YIP ADDED.

OTHER AND MORE ROUTINE BUT, NEVERTHELESS, EQUALLY IMPORTANT WORK OF THE BRANCH IS THE CHECKING OF IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS, AND THE HANDLING OF OVERSEAS COMPLAINTS ABOUT LOCAL TRADERS.

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INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE READY IN SIX MONTHS

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THE $53-MILLION NEW INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN SIX MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) WORK ON THE MAIN BUILDING OF THE MAIL CENTRE NEAR KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY STATION IN HUNG HOM HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE MAIL SORTING EQUIPMENT WAS ALSO NEAR COMPLETION.

HE SAID THAT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AUTOMATIC MAIL SORTING EQUIPMENT WOULD IN MID-MARCH UNDERGO A TWO-MONTH TRIAL SUPERVISED BY CONSULTANT ENGINEERS OF THE BRITISH POSTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND OFFICERS OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE.

+THE TWO-STOREY CENTRE OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 7 300 SQUARE METRES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WILL HAVE A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 8 000 SQUARE METRES FOR THE MAIL SORTING COMPLEX WHICH INCLUDES MAIL SORTING, STORAGE AND PROCESSING, WITH ANCILLARY OFFICES.

+THE MAIL CENTRE WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A DINING ROOM, A REST ROOM AND RECREATION ROOM FOR STAFF.+

A RAILWAY SPUR AND PLATFORM WILL BE PROVIDED TO HANDLE MAIL TO AND FROM CHINA WHILE FOUR BERTHS FOR MAIL LAUNCHES ARE BEING BUILT ALONG THE SEAWALL SOUTH OF THE CENTRE.

ON COMPLETION, THE MAIL CENTRE WILL BECOME THE MAJOR SORTING OFFICE FOR HANDLING INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO AND FROM HONG KONG.

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PERFORMANCE BY MULTI-LINGUAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CHOIR, NOW ONE YEAR OLD, HAS BEEN REHEARSING AN AMBITIOUS MULTI-LINGUAL PROGRAMME FOR ITS FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC CONCERT APPEARANCE IN THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AC HALL, ON MARCH 9 (SUNDAY).

FOLLOWING THE TRADITIONAL LION DANCE, THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THIS INAUGURAL CONCERT WILL BE OFFICIATED BY MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF INVITED DIGNITARIES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND RESIDENTS OF SAI KUNG.

THE 75 YOUNG CHORISTERS - AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 12 - WILL THEN PRESENT A FULL PROGRAMME OF 15 SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, SINGING IN CANTONESE, ENGLISH, ITALIAN, LATIN, MANDARIN AND THE HAKKA DIALECT.

CONDUCTING AND ACCOMPANYING THE CHOIR ON THE PIANO WILL BE THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, MR YIP CHI-KWONG, AND MISS WINNIE LIN FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND MISS LEUNG YUET-MEI, A TEACHER IN SAI KUNG, WHO DEVOTE MUCH OF THEIR SPARE TIME TO TRAINING THE CHOIR.

THE CONCERT WILL BE SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS FROM SAI KUNG SUNG TSUN MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHO WILL PERFORM THREE TRADITIONAL CHINESE FOLK DANCES.

FORMED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR BY THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, THE CHOIR PROVIDES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT AND ENCOURAGES THEIR MUSICAL TALENT.

ALTHOUGH THE CHOIR HAS ALREADY TAKEN PART IN EIGHT CHORAL PRESENTATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, INCLUDING A CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL LAST MONTH, THE INAUGURAL CONCERT NEXT MONTH MARKS BOTH THEIR 'COMING OF AGE' AND THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS, TV AND RADIO ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONCERT ON MARCH 9 AND ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BEFORE 7.45 PM WHEN THE LION DANCE STARTS.

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DISPLAY OF RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR SCIENCE TEACHING

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A DISPLAY OF RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR THE TEACHING OF PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY IN FORMS IV AND V, AND PRIMARY SCIENCE ACCORDING TO THE SYLLABUS RECOMMENDED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE DISPLAY IS STAGED AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE , PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

IT IS OPENED EVERY TUESDAY, EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 12 TO APRIL 22, 1980.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS, SCIENCE TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE SCIENCE TEACHING CENTRE TO INSPECT THE RESOURCE MATERIALS INCLUDING HOME-MADE AND COMMERCIALLY PRODUCED EXHIBITS AND TO TRY SOME OF THE 'NEW' EXPERIMENTS.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION, TEL: 5-774001 EXT. 38, 41, OR 46.

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