



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1975

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EVERY EFFORT MADE TO PRESERVE TREES
AFFECTED BY BUILDING WORKS

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY REASSURED TREE LOVERS THAT TREES GROWN ADJACENT TO PUBLIC ROADS OR FOOTPATHS OR ON SITES FOR BUILDING OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS WILL BE PRESERVED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE P.W.D. THOROUGHLY CHECK PLANS OF ALL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO ENSURE THAT TREES WHICH CLEARLY HAVE AN AMENITY OR AESTHETIC VALUE ARE NOT UNNECESSARILY DESTROYED.

+IF, IN THEIR OPINION, THERE ARE TREES WHICH CANNOT BE SAVED, THE CASE WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS TO A HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE WITHIN P.W.D. FOR A DECISION.

+THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE CASE TOGETHER WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE ADVICE AND VIEWS OF EITHER THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TRANSPLANTING OR REPLANTING,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN THE CASES OF TREES AND SHRUBS THAT MUST VIRTUALLY BE DESTROYED TO MAKE WAY FOR SUCH PROJECTS AS NEW ROADS ACROSS VIRGIN COUNTRY, SERVICE RESERVOIRS, FORMATION WORKS AND THE LIKE, PERMISSION MUST FIRST BE SOUGHT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

AS FOR TREES GROWN ON LOTS HELD UNDER LEASE OR SALES CONDITIONS, PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE TO APPLY FOR WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO FELL THEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT ALL APPLICATIONS WOULD BE DEALT WITH EXPEDITIOUSLY.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT PERMISSION SHOULD BE SOUGHT 12 MONTHS IN ADVANCE TO ENABLE THE ROOT SYSTEM OF ANY TREE SUITABLE FOR TRANSPLANTING TO BE PREPARED FOR THE MOVE.

+AS SOON AS APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED, THE P.W.D. WILL IMMEDIATELY ARRANGE FOR A MEETING ON SITE TO BE ATTENDED BY ONE OF ITS ESTATE SURVEYORS, A FORESTRY OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE AUTHORISED PERSON AND THE DEVELOPER OF THE PROJECT CONCERNED.

+IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES, IT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY CLEAR WHICH TREES SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND WHICH CAN BE REMOVED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT MUST BE MET BY THE AUTHORISED PERSON.

+HE CAN DO SO BY EITHER AMENDING HIS BUILDING PLAN TO RETAIN THE TREES TO BE PRESERVED OR SUBMITTING AN ACCEPTABLE PLAN INCORPORATING ANY PROPOSALS MADE BY THE FORESTRY OFFICER FOR LANDSCAPING AND REPLANTING ON COMPLETION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE.+

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YOUNGSTERS LEARN ABOUT PRESERVING HK'S NATURAL BEAUTY

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ABOUT 800 YOUNGSTERS WILL THIS SUMMER LEARN MORE ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION THROUGH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

THE YOUNGSTERS ARE SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO TAKE PART IN A SERIES OF CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND FORESTRY WORK CAMPS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE ANNUAL DRIVE TO INSTILL IN YOUNG PEOPLE A BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN SAFEGUARDING THE BEAUTY OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE BEGAN EARLY THIS WEEK WITH A GROUP OF 20 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS UNDERGOING A WEEK-LONG CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP AT THE KOWLOON HILLS FOREST OFFICE IN SHEK LI PUI RESERVOIR.

DURING THE CAMP THE PARTICIPANTS LEARN PRACTICAL SKILLS IN COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION WORK SUCH AS THE MAINTENANCE OF SOIL AND PATH AND THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF HILL FIRES.

LECTURES, FILM SHOWS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRANGED. FIELD VISITS TO A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND AN EXPERIMENTAL POULTRY MANURE DRYING PLANT ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE TRAINING PROGRAMME.

THE CAMP, WHICH IS PARTLY FINANCED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SUMMER ACTIVITIES FUNDS, IS ONE OF THE TWO TRAINING COURSES ORGANISED FOR THIS YEAR.

ANOTHER GROUP OF 20 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL TAKE PART IN A SIMILAR WEEK-LONG CAMP AT THE KOWLOON HILLS FOREST OFFICE STARTING ON MONDAY (JULY 28).

IN ADDITION TO THE TWO CAMPS, 38 FORESTRY WORK CAMPS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR ABOUT 750 YOUNGSTERS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

THE WORK CAMPS, WHICH ARE NOW BEING HELD AT SHING MUN, LEAD MINE PASS AND TAI PO KAU, AIM AT GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE TO LIVE IN NATURAL OUTDOOR SURROUNDINGS AND TO DEVELOP A DEEPER AWARENESS OF COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION.

THE FORESTRY WORK CAMP PROGRAMME STARTED IN 1966 AND HAS PROVED VERY POPULAR WITH YOUNGSTERS.

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THE PROMOTION OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RECREATION DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION.

A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PROFESSOR L.B. THROWER WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING VISIT THE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP AT SHEK LEI PUI RESERVOIR, AND THE THREE FORESTRY WORK CAMPS AT SHING MUN, LEAD MINE PASS AND TAI PO KAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO VISIT THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP OR THE FORESTRY WORK CAMPS. ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH MESSRS K.C. IU (TEL 3-688111 EXT 154), K.K. YEUNG AND DAVID CHAN (TEL 3-781211) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON HK-EEC TEXTILES ACCORD

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, WHO HEADED THE HONG KONG TEAM TO THE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE E.E.C. IN BRUSSELS, WILL BE GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 11 A.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HAVE IT COVERED. D.C. AND I.'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, MR. GERRY XAVIER, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

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COMPENSATION FOR FISHERMEN
AFFECTED BY HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME
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ALL FISHERMEN GENUINELY AFFECTED BY THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME ARE TO BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WHEN COMMENTING ON PRESS REPORTS ON COMPLAINTS MADE BY CERTAIN FISHERMEN YESTERDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT A SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT IN 1971 BY THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE TO DETERMINE HOW FAR THE FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE SCHEME. BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THIS SURVEY, FISHERMEN AFFECTED WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS -- A AND B -- IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEIR LIVELIHOOD WAS AFFECTED. GROUP B WAS JUDGED TO BE ONLY PARTLY AFFECTED BY THE SCHEME.

+ALL FAMILIES IN GROUP B WILL RECEIVE COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF FLATS IN THE GOVERNMENT HOUSING SCHEME WHICH IS TO BE SPECIALLY BUILT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+HOWEVER, IT WAS CONSIDERED AND ACCEPTED AS FAIR THAT, SINCE THEY ARE ONLY PARTLY AFFECTED, THEY SHOULD PAY PART OF THE COST OF THEIR NEW HOMES,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE GROUP B FISHERMEN HAD ACCEPTED THE TERMS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE \$6,000 TOWARDS THE COST. THESE TERMS WERE BINDING ON ALL OF THOSE IN GROUP B.

HE CONCLUDED THAT THE TERMS WERE FAIR TO THE FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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STATEMENT ON CLERKS

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR. TONY HAMMOND SAID THIS MORNING THAT THERE WAS NO RECORD OF ANY STATEMENT BEING MADE ABOUT CLERKS +NORMALLY GIVING ONLY 70 PER CENT SERVICE+.

IN A CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS THE CLERICAL ASSOCIATION ALLEGED THAT THIS WAS SAID BY MR. SCOTT TO THE PRESS ON JULY 3.

MR. HAMMOND SAID: +I AM SURE THAT MR. SCOTT WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE SUCH A REMARK.+

REFERRING TO REPORTED COMMENTS MADE BY DR. DENNY HUANG THAT THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO GIVE THE CLERKS MORE MONEY LAST YEAR, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE POINTED OUT THAT CLERKS, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS, RECEIVED SALARY INCREASES FROM APRIL 1, 1974.

COMMENTING ON THE REMARK THAT CLERKS GET ABOUT THE SAME AS +ROADSWEEPERS+, MR. HAMMOND SAID THAT THE JOBS WERE SIMPLY NOT COMPARABLE. THE SALARY RANGE FOR THE CLERICAL CLASS IS \$615 TO \$2,410 A MONTH AND THOSE FOR URBAN SERVICES STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING THE STREETS IS \$745 TO \$765 A MONTH. THEY ALSO RECEIVE CERTAIN ALLOWANCES.

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AMBULANCE SERVICE HAS HECTIC DAY

THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS CALLED OUT ABOUT 400 TIMES A DAY TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN DISTRESS.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE CALL RATE PER DAY HAS AVERAGED 369, COMPARED WITH 299 DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 23 PER CENT.

DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 7 A.M. TODAY (THURSDAY), THE NUMBER OF CALLS REACHED A RECORD 440 -- TWO MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS HIGH RECORDED ON MAY 19 THIS YEAR.

OF THE TOTAL, 371 WERE EMERGENCY AND 69 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS. THE KOWLOON UNIT WAS THE BUSIEST WITH 153 EMERGENCY AND 54 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS. ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 123 EMERGENCY AND 15 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS WERE RECEIVED, WHILE 95 EMERGENCY CALLS WERE ANSWERED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NINE AMBULANCE DEPOTS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG WITH A FLEET OF 86 AMBULANCES. ANOTHER FIVE AMBULANCES WILL SOON COME INTO SERVICE. THE AMBULANCE COMMAND HAS A STRENGTH OF ABOUT 550 AT PRESENT.

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