



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1978

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MORE WORK TO START ON SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE
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AN AREA NORTH OF THE RAILWAY STATION IN SHA TIN IS TO BE DEVELOPED AS SITE FOR GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

SITE FORMATION WORK WILL START IN THE AREA IN JUNE TO PRODUCE ABOUT SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF AN \$80 MILLION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - INCLUDING LAND FORMATION, ROADWORKS AND DRAINAGE - FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEW TOWN CENTRE AREA.

SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. GERRY HIGGINSON, TODAY DESCRIBED IT AS YET ANOTHER BIG STEP FORWARD IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN INTO A BALANCED, SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE BY MID-1980'S.

OTHER PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE AREA ALSO HAVE A MINI-SOCCER PITCH AND PARKING SPACES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE SITE FORMATION WORK, MR. HIGGINSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESUME ABOUT 26,000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND, MOSTLY PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND, IN THE AREA NORTH OF THE SHA TIN RAILWAY STATION.

A THREE MONTHS' NOTICE OF THE LAND RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST WEEK.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, FRUIT TREES, PINE TREES, FISH PONDS, GRAVES, BONE POTS, IRRIGATION PIPES, FENCES AND WELLS,+ HE SAID.

CULTIVATORS, PIG BREEDERS AND POULTRY FARMERS AFFECTED WOULD BE GIVEN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE, HE ADDED.

THE RESUMPTION WOULD INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF 231 TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES AND 292 OTHER TEMPORARY STRUCTURES.

+ELIGIBLE FAMILIES WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN WHILE THOSE FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE WILL BE OFFERED SPACE IN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN THE SAME DISTRICT.

+GENUINE CULTIVATOR-FAMILIES, WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BUT WHO OPT FOR A RESITE OUTSIDE THE LAYOUT TO CONTINUE FARMING, WILL BE OFFERED AN EX-GRATIA REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE OF \$5,000 PER FAMILY BUT WILL FORFEIT THEIR PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

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STREET-SLEEPERS -- NOT FORGOTTEN

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AN OLD WOMAN WHO SPENT MANY NIGHTS SLEEPING IN THE COLD AND DAMP STREET HAS FINALLY FOUND A PLACE SHE COULD CALL HOME.

THE OLD WOMAN IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY STREET-SLEEPERS WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN ASSISTANCE BY THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE STORY OF HER BEING DISCOVERED SLEEPING IN A REAR LANE REVEALS ONE OF THE MANY WAYS HOW THE DIVISION LOCATES SUCH PEOPLE.

IT ALL STARTED ONE MORNING WHEN A YOUNG SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL IN HIS OFFICE GIVING HIM SKETCHY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THIS OLD WOMAN.

THIS IMMEDIATELY PROMPTED HIM INTO ACTION.

HE WENT TO A REAR LANE IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT DESCRIBED BY THE CALLER, PEERING INTO EVERY DARK CORNER, IN THE HOPE OF FINDING THIS OLD WOMAN. THE MORNING SEARCH WAS FUTILE.

UNDAUNTED, THE OFFICER WENT BACK TO THE AREA AFTER LUNCH AND EXTENDED HIS SEARCH TO COVER EVERY SIDE LANE NEARBY, MAKING ENQUIRIES AS HE WENT ALONG.

AFTER MANY HOURS OF PATIENT SEARCH, HE FINALLY CAME ACROSS A WOMAN THAT ANSWERED THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN ON THE TELEPHONE.

THE WOMAN, WHO HAS NEITHER FRIENDS NOR RELATIVES, AT FIRST REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE CARED ABOUT HER. BUT THE SINCERITY OF THE OFFICER EVENTUALLY MADE HER LEAVE WITH HIM ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SHE WOULD BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE AND A HOME.

HER PLIGHT HAS SINCE COME TO AN END AND SHE IS NOW LIVING COMFORTABLY IN A HOME FOR THE AGED WITH THE CARE AND WARMTH THAT WAS DENIED HER FOR YEARS.

MRS. EVELYN DOE, HEAD OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION, SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STREET-SLEEPERS IN HONG KONG AS THEY WANDER FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

+HOWEVER, MORE THAN 150 CASES HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY OUR SOCIAL WORKERS LAST YEAR.+

/MRS. DOE NOTED

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MRS. DOE NOTED THAT WHEN SOCIAL WORKERS APPROACHED THE STREET-SLEEPERS, OFTEN A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THEM WERE FOUND TO BE RECEIVING EITHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND/OR DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE. BUT WHEN THEY WERE OFFERED OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, SOME OF THEM EITHER IGNORED OR REFUSED BECAUSE THEY PREFERRED TO LIVE IN THEIR USUAL STYLE.

MRS. DOE EMPHASISED THAT EVERY STREET-SLEEPER KNOWN TO OR REFERRED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE VISITED BY SOCIAL WORKERS WHO INVARIABLY MADE KNOWN TO HIM THE FULL RANGE OF SERVICES AVAILABLE AND ASSISTED HIM IN OBTAINING THESE SERVICES IF HE SO WISHED.

IN FACT, SHE CONTINUED, STREET-SLEEPERS ENJOY EQUAL PRIVILEGES AS ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

+TO MEET THEIR NEED FOR HOUSING, RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR THEM TO OBTAIN IT IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ON COMPASSIONATE GROUND. FOR THOSE IN NEED OF TEMPORARY HOUSING, THEY WILL BE REFERRED TO THE TRANSIT CENTRES OPERATED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, OR THE VARIOUS STREET-SLEEPERS HOMES AND SHELTERS OPERATED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.+

+APART FROM HELPING THEM TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF BOARD AND LODGING, ATTEMPTS WILL ALSO BE MADE TO ARRANGE EMPLOYMENT FOR THEM. THE DISABLED AND THE INFIRM WILL BE CARED FOR AT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS,+ SHE REMARKED.

+IN THE CASE OF STREET-SLEEPERS WITH CHILDREN, AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 12, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO HAVE THE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS,+ SHE ADDED.

MRS. DOE POINTED OUT THAT INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF STREET-SLEEPERS WERE MAINLY PASSED ON TO SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS EITHER BY TELEPHONE OR IN WRITING.

+UPON RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION, SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY GO OUT TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

+IN MOST CASES, MONETARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE GRANTED FROM TRUST FUNDS TO HELP THEM OUT FROM HARDSHIP BEFORE OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE,+ SHE SAID.

FINALLY, MRS. DOE SAID THAT FOR THOSE STREET-SLEEPERS WHOM WE KNOW THEIR WHEREABOUTS BUT HAVE SO FAR REFUSED OUR HELP, SOCIAL WORKERS WILL STILL CONTINUE TO APPROACH THEM FROM TIME TO TIME.

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TSUEN WAN THANKS GURKHAS
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TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH PRINCESS MARY'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES WHICH WOULD BE LEAVING HONG KONG FOR BORNEO THIS SUMMER.

+WE IN TSUEN WAN HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED AND INDEED BENEFITED FROM THEIR COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECTS WHICH RANGE FROM CONSTRUCTION OF A BASKETBALL PITCH TO FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL COMPETITIONS AS WELL AS TO A SWIMMING GALA,+ HE SAID.

+MUCH CREDIT IS DUE TO THEM FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HAYES WAS SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE GURKHA FOOTBALL CUP AT GALLIPOLI LINES IN FANLING.

THE CUP WAS PRESENTED BY THE 10TH PMO GURKHA RIFLES AND SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE REGIMENT AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE.

HE SAID THE CUP WAS FIRST COMPETED FOR LATE 1976 AND WAS FOLLOWED SUCCESSIVELY BY A SERIES OF BASKETBALL AND SWIMMING COMPETITIONS LAST YEAR.

+WITH THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE IN TSUEN WAN, THESE EVENTS HAVE NOW BECOME PERMANENT FEATURES IN THE SPORTING CALENDAR FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG,+ HE SAID.

MR. HAYES THANKED THE REGIMENT FOR ITS IMAGINATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORTING LIFE OF TSUEN WAN. THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS HAVE COME FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, VILLAGES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN TSUEN WAN.

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TALKS ON CAREERS IN COMPUTING SCIENCE

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THE TENTH WEEKLY SERIES OF +CAREERS TALKS+ ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS SECTION SINCE LAST OCTOBER FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, STARTS AT 3 P.M. ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 12) AT THE MARYKNOLL SISTERS' SCHOOL.

+COURSES AND CAREERS IN COMPUTING SCIENCE+ WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF TALKS BY A PANEL OF SPEAKERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING SCIENCE, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

AT THE MEETING, MR. G.P. MEAD, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING SCIENCE, WILL GIVE AN INTRODUCTION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS DEPARTMENT. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY TALKS BY OTHER LECTURERS ON THE NATURE OF COURSES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF GRADUATES OF THE POLYTECHNIC.

THE TALKS WILL BE IN CANTONESE AND ARE INTENDED FOR SENIOR STUDENTS. NEARLY 700 STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

THE FINAL TALK IN THE CURRENT SERIES IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 22, WHEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF JOHN SWIRE AND SONS (HK) LTD., WILL SPEAK ON +COMMERCIAL JOBS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS.+

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PING TIN ROAD CLOSED TO LEARNER DRIVERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 11), LEARNER DRIVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER PING TIN ROAD IN KOWLOON.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EAST KOWLOON POLYCLINIC.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREA TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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