



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1976

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SECONDARY ETV SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS
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THE ETV DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS TO HOLD A SERIES OF EIGHT SEMINARS FOR HEADS AND TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH THE ETV PROGRAMMES WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY THE THREE COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 13.

THE SEMINARS WILL TAKE PLACE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL FROM AUGUST 25 TO 27 BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M. THEY WILL BE CONDUCTED MAINLY IN CANTONESE.

EACH SEMINAR WILL LAST ABOUT TWO HOURS DURING WHICH THE ETV TEACHING SYLLABUS FOR FORM 1 WILL BE DISCUSSED. THE TEACHERS WILL ALSO BE SHOWN HOW TO OPERATE THE TELEVISION SETS AND VIDEO CASSETTE TAPE RECORDERS TO RECEIVE AND RECORD THE PROGRAMMES WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED IN COLOUR.

MORE THAN 2,000 SECONDARY TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS.

DURING THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR, THERE WILL BE 16 SECONDARY ETV PROGRAMMES ON EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR SUBJECTS : CHINESE LANGUAGE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE, MATHEMATICS AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

EVERY FORTNIGHT THERE WILL BE A NEW PROGRAMME, EACH LASTING ABOUT 20 MINUTES. EIGHT PROGRAMMES ON EACH OF THE FOUR SUBJECTS WILL BE TRANSMITTED FROM SEPTEMBER 13, 1976 TO JANUARY 14 NEXT YEAR WHILE THE REMAINING EIGHT PROGRAMMES WILL BE TELEVISED BETWEEN JANUARY 31 AND JUNE 24.

THE HOURS OF TRANSMISSION ARE : 8.55 A.M. - 9.15 A.M. AND 9.45 A.M. - 10.05 A.M. ON RTV (ENGLISH CHANNEL), 10.35 A.M. - 10.55 A.M. AND 1.55 P.M. - 2.15 P.M. ON HK-TVB (PEARL NETWORK), AND 3.20 P.M. - 3.40 P.M. AND 5.35 P.M. - 5.55 P.M. ON CTV.

THE PROGRAMMES WILL INITIALLY HAVE AN AUDIENCE OF 80,000 FORM 1 PUPILS INCREASING TO MORE THAN 250,000 PUPILS IN FORMS 1 TO 3 IN SEPTEMBER 1978. WITH THE FULL EXTENSION OF ETV TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE EVENTUAL AUDIENCE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUPILS WILL BE IN THE REGION OF 600,000 CHILDREN.

ETV IN HONG KONG IS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, BRINGING THE SKILLS OF RELATIVELY FEW SPECIALIST TEACHERS TO MANY, SUPPLYING VALUABLE IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND FACILITATING CURRICULUM REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

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PUBLIC URGED TO START THINKING METRIC NOW

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S METRICATION OFFICER, MR. JIM MCGUINNIETY, SAID TODAY NO ONE IN HONG KONG COULD ESCAPE THE INEVITABLE CHANGEOVER TO THE METRIC SYSTEM AND HE URGED EVERYONE TO BEGIN THINKING METRIC -- NOW.

+THE CHANGEOVER WILL BE WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, AND WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, BUT EVENTUALLY EVEN HOUSEWIVES WILL BUY RICE AND VEGETABLES IN KILOGRAMS FROM MARKET STALLS,+ HE PREDICTED.

+THE TIME HAS THEREFORE COME FOR ALL OF US TO MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO GET USED TO METRES AND KILOGRAMS INSTEAD OF INCHES AND CATTIES.+

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE VICTORIA ROTARY CLUB, MR. MCGUINNIETY SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S METRICATION PROGRAMME WAS ABOUT TO TAKE ANOTHER BIG STEP FORWARD WITH THE IMPENDING GAZETTING OF THE METRICATION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THIS WOULD REQUIRE AUTHORISED PERSONS TO SUBMIT BUILDING PLANS IN METRIC TERMINOLOGY ONLY AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1977.

+THE IMPACT WILL BE WIDESPREAD, AFFECTING NOT ONLY DESIGNERS, BUT ALSO THE CONTRACTING SIDE OF THE INDUSTRY INCLUDING SUPPLIERS OF MATERIALS, MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF MATERIALS,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCGUINNIETY NOTED THAT MUCH HEADWAY HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE IN VARIOUS AREAS WITHIN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY COMPLETED A FOUR-YEAR METRICATION PROGRAMME.

THE P.W.D. METRICATION UNIT, HE SAID, WOULD NOW BE TRANSFERRED TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROMOTION OF AN OVERALL POLICY AND FOR PRODUCING PROMOTIONAL AND INFORMATION MATERIAL FOR USE WITHIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS TO CO-ORDINATE THE EFFORT BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS AND TO ADVISE ON CHANGES IN LEGISLATION.

+AS OTHER DEPARTMENTS GET INTO GEAR ON METRICATION, THE COMMUNITY WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE AFFECTED,+ HE SAID.

+THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, FOR INSTANCE, WILL INFLUENCE OUR DAILY LIVING WHEN THEY AMEND LEGISLATION SO THAT ROAD SIGNS WILL BE IN METRIC DISTANCES. THIS IN TURN WILL AFFECT TAXI METERS AND FARE STRUCTURES AND PETROL WILL BE SOLD IN LITRES INSTEAD OF GALLONS.+

+LIKEWISE, THE POST OFFICE WILL CONVERT ITS POSTAL RATES TO METRIC AND OF COURSE ALREADY FOR SOME YEARS WE HAVE HAD ONLY METRIC INFORMATION FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.+

/TO CO-ORDINATE

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TO CO-ORDINATE THE CHANGEOVER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVESTIGATING THE APPOINTMENT OF A METRICATION BOARD COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF NON-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE THE CHANGE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, MR. MCGUINNIETY SAID.

THE MAIN TASK OF THE BOARD WOULD BE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ON A PLANNED AND ORDERLY CHANGEOVER PROGRAMME.

+THE PROBABLE PATTERN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD MAY WELL BE TO MAKE THE MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, IMPORT AND EXPORT, CONSTRUCTION, SHIPPING, TRANSPORT, PUBLIC UTILITIES, EDUCATION, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADING.

+TO ACHIEVE CO-ORDINATION, THE METRICATION BOARD CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN EACH OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF INDUSTRY. SUCH COMMITTEES WILL USUALLY BE CHAIRED BY A BOARD MEMBER SO THAT DIRECT LIAISON WILL BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND THE BOARD,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCGUINNIETY SAID THE DECISION TO GO METRIC HAD NOT BEEN A UNILATERAL ONE ON PART OF THE GOVERNMENT. +IN FACT, IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN STEERED TOWARDS METRICATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.+

INDUSTRIAL LEADERS, HE SAID, FIRST HAD TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT AS FAR BACK AS 1968. A METRICATION COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED IN 1970 AND IN ITS SUBSEQUENT REPORTS STRESSED THE SUITABILITY AND INEVITABILITY OF THE METRIC SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG AS WELL AS FOR THE EARLY INVOLVEMENT OF SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE P.W.D. AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

LAST MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT OPENED THE DOOR TO FULL SCALE METRICATION BY ENACTING THE METRICATION ORDINANCE PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR CHANGING NON-METRIC UNITS IN ANY EXISTING LEGISLATION TO METRIC TERMS.

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TAI ON SHOPKEEPERS GET +HIDDEN SUBSIDY+
OF \$73,000 IN UNPAID RENTS AND RATES
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SHOP OPERATORS IN TAI ON MANSION, SHAM SHUI PO, ARE GETTING A +HIDDEN SUBSIDY+ OF AT LEAST \$73,000 IN UNPAID RENTS AND RATES, NOT ONE CENT OF WHICH HAS BEEN CHARGED SINCE THE PROPERTY REVERTED TO THE CROWN ON APRIL 13 THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS POINTED OUT TODAY TO FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVEN AFFECTED SHOPKEEPERS, WHO WENT TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT TO ASK FOR REPROVISIONING OF SHOPS, HIGHER COMPENSATION AND A POSTPONEMENT OF THE CLEARANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AFTER THE MEETING: +THE SHOPKEEPERS WERE ASSURED THAT THEIR CLAIMS FOR EXTRA COMPENSATION WOULD BE FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED PROVIDED THE CLAIMS WERE ADEQUATELY SUBSTANTIATED.

+HOWEVER IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT ONE SHOP OPERATOR PAYING \$7,500 A MONTH RENT UNTIL APRIL 13 WILL HAVE HAD A WINDFALL OF MORE THAN \$33,000 IN UNPAID RENT BY AUGUST 31, WHEN THE PREMISES MUST BE VACATED TO MAKE WAY FOR ESSENTIAL TUNNELLING WORKS FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

+ALSO, IT WAS POINTED OUT, OTHER SHOP OPERATORS ARE GETTING NO-RENT 'BONUSES' RANGING BETWEEN \$18,000 AND, FOR THE SMALLEST OPERATOR, ALMOST \$6,000.

THE SHOPKEEPERS' REPRESENTATIVES WERE REMINDED THAT THESE UNPAID RENTS AND RATES TOTALLING AT LEAST \$73,000 HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THEM AS WELL AS THE TOTAL OF \$137,632 OFFERED TO THEM IN EX GRATIA COMPENSATION.

THEY WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT THEY WERE ENTITLED TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR REMOVAL EXPENSES, TEMPORARY LOSS OF PROFITS AND THE VALUE OF SHOP FITTINGS AT THE TIME OF VACATING THE PREMISES, AND THAT WHERE SUCH SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT OF EX GRATIA COMPENSATION PAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE UP THE BALANCE TO THE SHOPKEEPER.

ALSO THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY WOULD GET ASSISTANCE IN LODGING APPEALS TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, AND IF THE TRIBUNAL'S INDEPENDENTLY-GIVEN RULING ON OVERALL COMPENSATION EXCEEDED THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL OFFER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE UP THE BALANCE.

IT WAS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION SCHEME UNDER WHICH THE SHOPKEEPERS WERE RECEIVING SUCH HELP HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ONLY LAST JUNE AND THAT THEY WERE THE FIRST COMMERCIAL GROUP TO RECEIVE SUCH AID, WHICH APPLIES TO COMMERCIAL TENANTS OF POST-WAR BUILDINGS WHICH MUST MAKE WAY FOR ESSENTIAL PUBLIC WORKS.

/THE SPOKESMAN

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCEDE TO THE SHOPKEEPERS' REQUEST FOR REPROVISIONING OF SHOP SITES BECAUSE COMPARABLE GOVERNMENT SHOP SITES WERE NOT AVAILABLE, AND THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT HAD DRAWN UP THE DETAILED AND GENEROUS ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO HELP THEM SET UP IN BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.

CONCERNING THEIR REQUEST FOR A POSTPONEMENT IN VACATING THE PREMISES, THE SHOPKEEPERS WERE REMINDED THAT SINCE FEBRUARY LAST YEAR THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVING VERBAL AND WRITTEN WARNINGS THAT THE BUILDING WOULD HAVE TO BE VACATED, AND NO EXTENSION COULD BE GRANTED.

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WALDEN TO VISIT CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE REHABILITATION SERVICES OFFERED BY THE PO LEUNG KUK WHEN HE VISITS ITS KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 25).

ACCOMPANIED BY MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS= MR. PATRICK YIU, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (KWUN TONG)= MRS. MAXIM LI KWOK, CHAIRMAN OF PO LEUNG KUK= MR. CHENG ENG-KUWN, FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN= MR. CHIU CHON-BONG, MRS. NANCY SUK-YING CHU AND MR. PHILIP K.C. YUNG, DIRECTORS, MR. WALDEN WILL TOUR ROUND THE CENTRE AND SEE SOME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN PROGRESS.

A DISCUSSION WILL ALSO BE HELD ON THE FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICES OF PO LEUNG KUK.

OFFICIALLY OPENED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE IS THE LARGEST REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN HONG KONG.

WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 13,000 SQ. FT. IT ACCOMMODATES 60 BOARDING FEMALE TRAINEES OF OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE AND 40 NON-BOARDING TRAINEES OF BOTH SEXES. IT IS ALSO THE ONLY REHABILITATION CENTRE IN HONG KONG WITH MULTIPLE SERVICES FOR THE TRAINEES.

THE CENTRE CONSISTS OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A HOSTEL, A SHELTERED WORK SHOP, A CANTEEN AND RECREATION ROOM.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. MR. WALDEN WILL ARRIVE AT THE PO LEUNG KUK KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE AT 11 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY.

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JULY BUILDING FIGURES
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A TOTAL OF 67 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED LAST MONTH BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, COMPARED WITH 52 FOR JULY LAST YEAR.

OF THE NEW PLANS APPROVED, 30 WERE FOR PROJECTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 25 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED PLANS FOR A 23-STOREY HOTEL OFF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, A LOW-COST HOUSING SCHEME OF 20 STOREYS AT KING'S ROAD, A TRAINING SCHOOL AT KWAI CHUNG BY THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, AND PLANS FOR A COMPLEX OF TEN 15-STOREY APARTMENT AND COMMERCIAL BLOCKS AT TO KWA WAN.

PLANS FOR AN ART GALLERY ANNEX AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND ANCILLARY BUILDINGS FOR THE SHA TIN RACECOURSE WERE ALSO APPROVED.

DURING THE MONTH, THE B.O.O. ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO BEGIN ON 44 BUILDING PROJECTS. THESE COMPRISED MAINLY A SERIES OF HIGHRISE APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND FACTORIES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING JULY AMOUNTED TO \$163.15 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$108.04 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED AMOUNTED TO 1,472,750 SQUARE FEET, COMPRISING 580,529 SQ. FT. OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 892,221 SQ. FT. OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE B.O.O. ISSUED 45 OCCUPATION PERMITS FOR COMPLETED BUILDINGS, INCLUDING TWO HOSTELS AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AT SHA TIN AND THREE HIGHRISE APARTMENT BLOCKS OF 26 STOREYS.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 28 BUILDINGS, INCLUDING FOUR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

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IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF BIOLOGY EDUCATION

THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL), MR. ARTHUR BROWN TODAY SPOKE ABOUT THE EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, PROFESSOR L.B. THROWER AND HIS STAFF HAD BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SCIENCE SUBJECT SECTION'S STAFF TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BIOLOGY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

MR. BROWN WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A JOINTLY ORGANISED SIX-DAY REFRESHER COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS.

THIS YEAR'S COURSE WAS MODIFIED AND IMPROVED FOLLOWING A STUDY OF FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS OF LAST YEAR'S COURSE BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

A WORKING PARTY HAD KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST COURSE TO WORK OUT A BETTER ONE THIS YEAR.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE IS TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF BIOLOGY TEACHING, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NEW METHODS OF APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF THE SUBJECT AT MIDDLE 6 LEVEL.

MR. BROWN SAID IT WAS THROUGH EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS AMONG TEACHERS THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

HE SAID THAT THE RECENT FIVE-DAY RESIDENTIAL FIELD STUDIES AND RECREATION CAMP AT SAI KUNG FOR 32 FORM 6 STUDENTS WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL.

THE TEACHER-WARDENS AT THE CAMP TOLD THE DEPARTMENT'S SCIENCE INSPECTORS THAT THEIR STUDENTS HAD LEARNT A LOT ABOUT ECOLOGY AND ECOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES FROM THE THREE ECOSYSTEMS THAT THEY HAD CARRIED OUT WITH THEIR TUTORS.

ALL THE EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT USED AT THE CAMP WAS BORROWED FROM THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

THIS WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY'S BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

HE CITED ANOTHER EXAMPLE: A PROPOSED BIOLOGY SYLLABUS FOR THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MATRICULATION CLASSES WAS DEVELOPED AS A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE BIOLOGY SUBJECT COMMITTEE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

MR. BROWN SAID: +THE PROPOSED NEW MIDDLE 6 BIOLOGY SYLLABUS FITS IN VERY WELL WITH THE NEW FORMS 4-5 BIOLOGY SYLLABUS ISSUED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

+THUS THERE IS A CONTINUOUS TREND FROM FORM 1 INTEGRATED SCIENCE TO MIDDLE 6 BIOLOGY.+