

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Tuesday, June 6, 1972

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BE EXPANDED

2,000 More Qualified Teachers By 1976

Hong Kong is to expand its existing training programme for non-graduate teachers to meet the rising demand for trained teachers and to raise the quality of teaching in schools.

Finance Committee has approved in principle proposals which aim to produce, by 1976, a further 2,000 qualified teachers. Of this total, 1,500 would be competent to teach in lower secondary forms.

These will be additional to the present programme, which produces approximately 1,000 trained teachers per year.

An Education Department spokesman said today that the Department was concerned with improving the quality of teaching in government and aided schools.

At present, he said, there are 1,000 "permitted teachers" in aided schools who do not meet the requirements of the Education Ordinance to become registered teachers.

"They are permitted to teach, but are not basically qualified to do so," he added.

The spokesman said it was necessary to enable these permitted teachers to become qualified teachers.

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Under the expansion programme, they are to become qualified teachers at the rate of about 200 a year.

Since their training takes two years, this would mean that 600 "permitted teachers" could qualify by 1976 and the remainder by 1978.

The spokesman said: "The aim is that any additional teachers required in primary schools in the public sector should be qualified and not permitted teachers."

The three Colleges of Education are capable of very limited expansion. To provide for the intake of 2,000 students, accommodation will have to be found for the expansion of part-time courses.

To this end, the old Northcote College of Education buildings at Bonham Road, which have been vacated by the United College of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, should now revert to their original role.

Additional accommodation will be available in Kowloon when Sir Robert Black College moves from its existing premises at Hung Hom to permanent new accommodation at Piper's Hill.

"These buildings should provide sufficient accommodation," the spokesman said, "but if an inadequate number of unqualified teachers offer themselves for in-service training, it will be necessary to consider an expansion of full-time training courses."

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DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL ON JUNE 15

Governor To Watch Yau Ma Tei Boat Races

The Dragon Boat Festival, one of the main holidays on the lunar calendar, falls this year on Thursday, June 15, and thousands will mark it with traditional boat races and displays.

The festival is observed annually on the fifth day of the fifth moon on the lunar calendar to commemorate the death of Chu Yuan, a famous Chinese statesman who lived 2,500 years ago.

As is customary on the day, there will be celebrations in almost every seaside village or fishing community, but the major ones will be in Yau Ma Tei, Tai Po and Chai Wan.

The Yau Ma Tei festivities will be held inside the typhoon shelter, with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, as the guest of honour.

Altogether 25 teams, including four women's teams, will take part in the competition which will start at 1 p.m. and last about four hours.

At the end of the races, Sir Murray will present banners to the winning teams.

In Tai Po, The Commander British Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Ward, will attend the races which will commence at 10 a.m.

Over 30 teams will compete in separate heats. Non-fisherman teams will include five from the Army, one from the Police, one from the District Office, Tai Po, and others representing various organisations in the District.

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On Hong Kong Island, the main dragon boat races will take place in Chai Wan. The races will be held in two sessions, but the climax will be in the afternoon, starting at 3 p.m.

The Commodore-in-Charge, Hong Kong, Commodore R.E.S. Wykes-Sneyd and the City District Officer, Eastern, Mr. T.H. Barma, will be the guests of honour. They will distribute prizes to the winners after the races.

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DON'T GIVE MONEY TO INMATES

Visitors To Prisons Told

People visiting relatives in prison institutions are advised today that inmates do not need money and they should not therefore give money to them on visits.

A Prisons Department spokesman said that prison services are financed entirely from public funds and under the Prison rules inmates are prohibited from being in possession of money whilst serving their sentences.

The spokesman urged residents to report to the Commissioner of Prisons or his deputy, or the anti-corruption branch, cases where they are approached for money by anybody when they visit their relatives in prisons.

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A leaflet to this effect has been prepared by the Department and copies are being distributed to visitors.

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VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

Posters To Publicise Recruitment

Work has started to recruit volunteers to help run this year's summer youth programme.

A colourful and attractive poster to publicise the recruitment has been printed and will be widely distributed to various organisations for display purposes.

The poster aims at urging young people to make good use of their spare time to help run the various activities under this year's summer youth programme.

The places where they may register or obtain information are listed on the poster. These are City District Offices, District Offices in the New Territories, Social Welfare Department's Community Centres, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Association of Volunteers for Service.

Registration procedure is very simple, and anyone over the age of sixteen may apply.

"Last summer, more than 20,000 youngsters came forward to help run the various activities. Since more people are expected to take part in this year's summer programme, we hope that more youths will join as helpers or leaders," a spokesman for the Association of Volunteers for Service said today (Tuesday).

The Association is responsible for this year's overall co-ordination of recruiting volunteers.

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Volunteer workers are required to help in such activities as running camps, service projects, training and study courses and recreation centres etc.

"By working as a volunteer in the summer youth programme, I obtain valuable experience in organising activities, serve other people of my age and at the same time enjoy myself. I hope that more youngsters will take part in this worthy cause," said a registered volunteer.

Note to editors: Copies of photographs of the poster are distributed separately in the press boxes at the Government Information Services this (Tuesday) evening.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

Quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Delhi (excluding airport), India, on account of cholera, the Port Health Authorities announced today (Tuesday).

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BUILDING IN SHANGHAI STREET DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared two four-storey pre-war buildings at Nos. 693 and 693A Shanghai Street, Kowloon to be in a dangerous condition.

In a statement issued this morning; the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that in the course of routine inspection the reinforced concrete framing, floors and roofs of these buildings were found to show signs of deterioration.

The owner was ordered to remove all loose material and open-up portions of the structure for investigation and on compliance with this order it was found that the deterioration was in an advanced stage and beyond reasonable repair.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on July 19, 1972 were posted today.

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DR. CHOA TO ADDRESS LIONS CLUB

Note to Editors: Dr. the Hon. G.H. Choa will address members of the Lion Clubs at a joint luncheon in the Peninsula Hotel tomorrow, Wednesday, June 7, at 1 p.m. His subject will be "The Medical and Health Department and the Public," and he will take the occasion to reply to a number of recent criticisms of his Department. The Lions Club have agreed that members of the Press, radio and TV be invited to attend the meeting to cover the speech. An Information Officer will be on hand to assist the Press.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.

PRESS RELEASE

SPEECH ON THE "KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN" CAMPAIGN

GIVEN BY MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE AT THE

ROTARY CLUB OF HONGKONG LUNCHEON

on Tuesday, 6th June 1972

Gentlemen

I am most grateful to have been given this opportunity to address such a representative and influential assembly, in my capacity as Vice Chairman of the Urban Council Environmental Hygiene Select Committee, on a subject currently dear to all our hearts - and eyes - and noses - the problem of pollution by litter in Hong Kong, and what is being done about it, and, in particular, the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" Campaign scheduled to begin on 1st November this year.

In recent years, concern amounting sometimes to obsession with pollution and the quality of the environment, has become fashionable. Everywhere, politicians are using these terms as popular political platforms, and many commercial firms are gearing themselves and their products to these attitudes. The more cynical minded or heedless among us tend to dismiss this concern as a vogue which, as with all earthly things, will pass. But I hope that on this score they could not be more wrong (unless, of course, they are so cynical as to mean that in their passing, they will take mankind also!), and, fortunately, in Hong Kong, many right-minded people are seriously, even desperately, concerned about what the staid London Times recently called: "humanity running, lemming-like, to the brink of ecocatastrophe".

It is with/...



Help run your city Register as Electors

It is with this background that in autumn 1970 the Deputy Colonial Secretary convened a meeting of the several senior officials responsible for the state of cleanliness in Hong Kong, to express the Government's concern at the growing filth, and to plan measures to combat the situation. This concern was reflected in the Governor's speech at the opening of the LegCo session in October 1970, when he deprecated the increasing dirtiness all round, and advocated "something of a sustained and co-ordinated effort in this field, attacking the problem on all fronts", promising his support if the Urban Council, as the Authority basically responsible, felt able to initiate some major move in the field.

Environmental Pollution

I think it might also be appropriate to mention here something about the new Committee which has been established, and which I am privileged to chair, to look into the longer term form of Environmental Pollution. Up till now the Committee has been principally concerned with analysis of the problems of pollution and their control, but this analysis is being prepared with a view to the preparation of a series of reports throughout the next two years, which will contain recommendations on legislation and on public expenditure to protect our environment. I have no doubt that these recommendations, if they are implemented, will force a change of attitude among our polluters, and I would strongly advise anyone who now depends for his living on the release of his/...

of his wastes on the environment to look hard at his present methods, so that the enforcement of higher standards will not involve too severe an adjustment. For the prevention of pollution is not a game, it is the biggest insurance policy which we can take out for posterity.

To its credit, the Environmental Hygiene Select Committee, which, as its name suggests, is the part of the Urban Council charged with maintaining the cleanliness of the city, took up this challenge and invited Legislative Councillors and very senior representatives of all the Government Departments concerned, to form a Campaign Committee for the purpose of planning and executing a major campaign against litter. This Committee now has two Legislative Councillors, three Urban Councillors (one of them myself), and thirteen Deputy or Assistant Heads of Department.

Obviously, a fulltime Co-ordinator was necessary to pursue the decisions taken by this Campaign Committee, and with effect from June 1971, the Government made a Senior Executive Officer available for this purpose. Fortunately, there was ample experience and documentation of the supremely successful 1968 "Keep Singapore Clean" Campaign to guide the Hong Kong planners, and, although the Governmental attitudes and priorities are quite different in both places, the basic elements of success in such a campaign were acknowledged to be common.

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I shall not go into minute details of the long, mostly fruitful, discussions already held by the Campaign Committee and its Working Groups dealing with such inter-related subjects as education, community organisation, multi-storey buildings, industrial/commercial involvement, publicity, programming, legislation, and, of course, budgeting/finance. These have already studied the ways in which the campaign can be pursued in their particular fields, and have mapped out broad guidelines to achieve the campaign aim - to attain and maintain the cleanliness and litter-free condition of our streets, public areas and the communal parts of buildings.

Now, this aim may seem to some people as a typically half-hearted way of tackling environmental pollution, but to those who think so I must point out that this is an anti-litter campaign, aimed at creating in the public mind an awareness of litter, a mood of censure against litter bugs, and gradual inculcation of good litter habits. The other appalling aspects of pollution are being, or will be, dealt with separately by other strong committees, but litter is one of the greatest single contributors to this modern horror, and the earliest possible action is necessary. Accumulations of litter block drains, they block streams, they hinder proper cleansing, and lead in turn to a sort of public malaise which countenances the dumping of more and larger objects, such as obsolete furniture, cars, etc.

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The almost universal adage about never fouling one's own nest is recognised and practised by the great majority of our people in their own homes. But what do they do outside these homes? They dump litter from windows, from back doors, from their shops, from their cars, whenever the impulse takes them, to the extent that 540 tons of litter and refuse are swept up daily from Hong Kong's streets, at an annual cost of over \$34 million - more than half the annual cleansing bill! If this anti-litter campaign is not mounted soon, and maintained thereafter, the situation can only worsen, and will cost infinitely more to rectify the longer that we wait to start it. In other words, the authorities must start running now to catch up, and must keep running thereafter even to keep abreast of the problem, until the campaign - initiated efforts in education and persuasion start to produce their own results.

It will perhaps assist you to get a clearer picture of this forthcoming campaign if I describe the general approach, detailing some of the means whereby we hope to recruit assistance from the broad mass of the community, and to shame the remainder into better litter habits. The campaign proper will last throughout November, during which there will take place a massive "spring clean" in all the high rise buildings, in streets, in public places, and the communal parts of buildings. This will be carried out section by section in each district in accordance with a timetable well publicised beforehand and great emphasis will be/...

will be laid on the removal of clogging junk and refuse from around people's homes. In the months prior to this campaign, anti-litter squads under the leadership of legally authorised Litter Wardens, will be making door-to-door visits, passing out explanatory leaflets, advising and cajoling in methods of litter disposal, and leaving nobody in any doubt over the consequences of illegal dumping. This advisory role will be continued during the campaign month when massive publicity will be given to the aims and objects of the campaign, with particular emphasis on creating a mood of public censure against litter offenders who spoil others' environment. During the campaign, it is hoped that community groups such as Kaifongs and rural committees will be assisting to create the necessary mood of public censure. Youth groups and even religious bodies have also pledged their assistance, and, although precise details have yet to be worked out, the intention will be to harness the youth and vigor of students, Scouts, Guides and the numerous other similar organisations to assist physically in the clean-up, to show by example that they are concerned with improving their environment. In Britain this has been done by issuing special, easily recognisable shirts to young people, and channelling their enthusiasm for a good cause into such jobs as the cleaning of parks and benches, sweeping of streets of ugly rubbish dumps. This type of approach was found to have an infinitely greater impact than a whole series of posters or static displays which have only limited appeal.

As I have/...

As I have said, exact details are yet to be worked out, but a proposal is now maturing to form groups of area volunteers who, perhaps dressed in special T-shirts and wearing distinctive arm bands, would go around ostentatiously picking up litter in public and shaming those responsible for dropping it. This type of action brings home the lesson that if litter is dropped indiscriminately, someone, somewhere, has to pick it up, and usually the public purse has to pay.

Already there have been pledges of support from responsible and forward-thinking bodies and firms, and if we can convince the business community that what we intend to do cannot be anything but good for Hong Kong, then the support we get from the private sector will be substantial. The nurturing of this support is a task for the Industrial/Commercial Working Group.

People have said to me that it is pointless to try to stop the existing indiscriminate dumping of litter and that the anti-litter campaign, whilst admirable in its aim, will have only impermanent results. This defeatist attitude conveniently ignores the lesson that Singapore has taught the world, and continues to teach. No-one in his right mind would try to change an entire social attitude within a month or even a year, but with sustained efforts and first-class, well-shafted publicity over an appreciable period, the Campaign Committee considers it possible to change a thoughtless, uncaring populace into
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one wholly conscious of its own living environment and anxious to maintain or improve the standard of that environment. It is also intended to introduce new legislation, firm but fair, for dealing with the type of offender to whom reason and the public good are unimportant, and to back this legislation, it is intended to introduce anti-litter squads headed by Litter Wardens, whose principal object will be to catch or deter litter offenders.

Such a campaign, however, could not even hope to get off the ground without a massive publicity effort utilising all the media, hammering home the undesirability of living amidst litter, and conditioning public attitudes to enthusiastic support for anti-litter measures, even in the toughest, least tractable districts. The combined efforts of the community groups, the support in cash and kind of the industrial/commercial sector, the considerable resources of Government in the fields of housing, education, publicity and public cleansing, and a determination to succeed on the part of all concerned, can perhaps confound the defeatists, amaze the cynics, and straighten the spines of all Hong Kong's citizens with the beginnings of civic pride. I hope that when that time comes, and a general appeal is made for assistance in combatting our litter problem, you will be 100% behind our efforts. There may be no thanks, except from posterity.

Finally, let me quote an excerpt from a lecture on

Land Pollution/...

Land Pollution by Sir Frank Fraser Darling, D Sc, Ph D, LLD, FRSE, delivered to the Royal Society in London in March 1971. Sir Frank, who is also a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, said:-

"How far can we call the intentional and careless dumping of unwanted hardware and litter pollution of the land? I would be prepared to call it such, for although it cannot be compared with the persistence and diffusion of organo-chlorine pesticides and their possible dangers to health, there are direct dangers to human health in derelict motor cars, refrigerators, mattresses, and what not. Discarded paint cans have caused death to many cattle in the course of history. Further, litter creates a disturbed environment to which many of us are not insensitive. The random dumping which we have seen increase so markedly in these twenty-five years causes appreciable stress. Derelict land is far too common in a country as heavily populated as we are. Come into London from any direction on an hour's journey and instead of reading the paper, count the odd bits, often quite large, of dead, ugly, derelict land. This is shameful. I would call it visual contamination of the land, a manifestation of pollution we could easily change. There have been brave attempts in the Black Country, in South Wales, and in Durham, to create plantations and natural scrub in derelict areas. There have been chemical obstacles to doing this, but if all I hear is true, the main check to growth is vandalism, pollution of the land by people, pollution arising from an attitude of mind. This is hardest of all to bear, for somehow the beam must be in our own eye."

How truly/...

How truly the words apply to present-day Hong Kong.

I know that Rotary in Hong Kong, with its main objective of "Service", will do all it can to help in this campaign. One positive way will be to exercise your civic rights and register as a voter in the next year's Urban Council Elections. I am an Appointed Member and am not therefore plugging for myself, but my elected colleagues on the Council, with whom appointed members work in close and generally amicable concert in Committee, need and deserve the support of voters to help encourage them in their work on the Council. If you have listened to my talk, you must agree it is no mean task. The closing date for new voters to register is 14th June and re-registrations, 30th June 1972.

President George and Fellow Rotarians, thank you very much indeed for your invitation and attention.