



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1990

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NEW AIRPORT ALSO BENEFITS SOUTHERN CHINA: GOVERNOR

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THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT IS OF BENEFIT NOT JUST TO HONG KONG BUT ALSO TO SOUTHERN CHINA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM A SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO EUROPE, SIR DAVID SAID HE FOUND THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE ROLE HONG KONG COULD PLAY AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

"I THINK THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE POINT I WAS MAKING TO THEM WAS THAT NOW OUR RE-EXPORTS THROUGH HONG KONG ARE GREATER THAN OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND MOST OF THOSE RE-EXPORTS ARE FROM CHINA. SO WE ARE PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"ALSO, THE OTHER WAY, INVESTMENT BETWEEN THE REST OF THE WORLD AND CHINA. AND I THINK IT'S THAT BRIDGE ROLE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA THAT PEOPLE SEE AS VERY IMPORTANT," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE AIRPORT PROJECT, SIR DAVID SAID : "THAT IS WHY HAVING VERY GOOD COMMUNICATIONS HERE IS OF BENEFIT NOT JUST TO HONG KONG BUT TO SOUTHERN CHINA, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CHINA AS WELL."

HE SAID IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE PROJECT BUILT ON TIME WHEN THEY WERE NEEDED, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IF HONG KONG HAD STARTED BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT SOME YEARS AGO.

"WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW IS TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND IF YOU DON'T START DOING THAT NOW, YOU WILL MISS THE BUS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT A FUTURE GOVERNMENT WOULD SIMPLY WANT TO PUT THAT AUTOMATICALLY INTO REVERSE OUT OF SPITE AS THAT WOULD NOT DO ANY GOOD FOR HONG KONG.

"WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS BUILD FOR THE GOOD OF HONG KONG FOR THE FUTURE, AND I THINK ANYBODY WHO HAS THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG AT HEART WILL SEE THAT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HIS VISIT TO EUROPE WAS USEFUL AND HE BELIEVED THAT SUCH VISITS WERE PART OF AN ESSENTIAL PROCESS: "WE NEED TO TELL PEOPLE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT HONG KONG, ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE ECONOMY HERE."

"I FOUND A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG, AND I FOUND A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AS AN AREA OF OPPORTUNITY," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS VERY SORRY INDEED TO HEAR THAT THE LEADER OF THE CHINESE TEAM OF EXPERTS, MR YONG LONGGUI, HAD SUSTAINED INJURY.

"I AM TOLD THAT HE IS NOW RECOVERING. I CERTAINLY WOULD LIKE TO SEND HIM MY BEST WISHES FOR HIS RECOVERY." HE SAID.

MEETING THE GOVERNOR AND LADY WILSON AT THE AIRPORT WERE THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BARONESS DUNN, AND THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ALLEN LEE.

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SWD TO HELP SETTING UP OF CHILD CARE CENTRES

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE ADVICES, SITE-SELECTION ASSISTANCE, DESIGN AND REGISTRATION MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETTING UP OF WORK-BASED CHILD CARE CENTRES.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONGKONG BANK CHILD CARE CENTRE IN CHEUNG SHA WAN THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, DESCRIBED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS CHILD CARE CENTRE AS A WELCOME INITIATIVE BY THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE CENTRE FACILITIES WAS A USEFUL TOOL, CONDUSIVE TO STAFF MORALE AND IN MITIGATING STAFF TURNOVER.

"FROM A BROADER PERSPECTIVE, IT SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON OTHER NURSERY FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THE POPULATION AT LARGE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

"IN SOME SOCIETIES, EMPLOYERS PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES BUT IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNDING.

"THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND THE WELFARE AGENCIES ARE THE MAIN VEHICLE FOR DELIVERING SERVICES.

"IT WOULD BE A WELCOME TREND IF MORE EMPLOYERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THE BANK'S LEAD AND ESTABLISH WELFARE FACILITIES FOR THEIR STAFF, THUS SPREADING THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY AND HOPEFULLY IMPROVING STANDARDS AND HELPING TO MAKE UP OVERALL SHORTFALLS IN PROVISION," MR CARTLAND SAID.

WHILE COMMENDING THE BANK'S CONCERN FOR ITS STAFF WELFARE, MR CARTLAND SAID: "EMPLOYER'S PARTICIPATION INDICATES AN ENLIGHTENED APPROACH TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS SHARING OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BY THE EMPLOYER."

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CHILDREN CENTRE ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPMENTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
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A CHILDREN CENTRE SERVES AS A FOCAL POINT FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS TO SUSTAIN THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL AND TO BOOST THEIR SOCIALISATION SKILLS.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID THIS AT THE OPENING OF THE CHEVALIER GARDEN CHILDREN CENTRE CUM STUDY/READING ROOM OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION AT MA ON SHAN ESTATE, SHA TIN TODAY (SATURDAY).

"THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF A CHILDREN CENTRE IS TO PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE CHILDREN CAN ACQUIRE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL GROWTH AND ABILITY TO USE THEIR LEISURE TIME BENEFICIALLY," MR CARTLAND NOTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF A CHILD'S LIFE, GUIDANCE FROM PARENTS AND TEACHERS, AS WELL AS PEER GROUP INFLUENCE, HAD GREAT IMPACT ON A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT.

"IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF MEMBERS OF CHILDREN CENTRES, ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNISED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL INSTITUTION THAT CAN INFLUENCE THE BEHAVIOUR AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD," HE ADDED.

ALL CHILDREN CENTRES OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION VERY FREQUENTLY INVOLVED THE PARENTS IN CENTRE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

"THE NEW CENTRE HAS MADE A PROMISING START TO MEET A GROWING NEED AS THE POPULATION OF MA ON SHAN HAS ALREADY REACHED OVER 70,000 AND MORE THAN 25,000 OF THEM ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE," MR CARTLAND SAID.

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