



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1974

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1974

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APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

COMMANDER NIGEL HOWELL OF NEW SCOTLAND YARD, ONE OF BRITAIN'S TOP DETECTIVES, HAS ACCEPTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND WILL TAKE OVER AS DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.

THE PRESENT DIRECTOR, MR. J.B. LEES Q.P.M., C.P.M., GOES ON RETIREMENT LEAVE ON AUGUST 29.

THE APPOINTMENT IS A KEY PART OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR. BRIAN SLEVIN'S DRIVE TO COUNTER SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME.

MR. HOWELL HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY COURTESY OF SIR ROBERT MARK, COMMISSIONER OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

COMMANDER HOWELL, AGED 46, IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.

HE JOINED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE IN 1949 AND HAS BEEN IN CID SINCE 1954. HE HAS SERVED IN THE MURDER SQUAD (KNOWN AS THE FLYING SQUAD) AND HAS SPECIALISED IN CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE USE OF COMPUTERISATION AS AN AIDE TO CID INVESTIGATIONS.

HE HAS PARTICULAR RECENT KNOWLEDGE OF DRUGS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND, LAST YEAR, WAS BRIEFLY SECONDED TO THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AS POLICE ADVISER.

IT IS KNOWN THAT THE COMMISSIONER REGARDS CID AS BEING OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME- RESTRUCTURING OF THE DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY AND THE INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER MODERN COUNTER CRIME METHODS ARE BEING PLANNED.

MR. HOWELL HAS A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE GAINED AS A SENIOR OFFICER IN ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND ADVANCED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENTS.

HIS EXPERIENCE IN BOTH METROPOLITAN POLICE WORK AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL MATTERS WILL BE INVALUABLE IN ADVISING THE COMMISSIONER ON METHODS OF IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING THE CID.

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TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG FEMALE OFFENDERS REVIEWED
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+SHE IS APPROXIMATELY 16 YEARS OLD, HAS A PRIMARY FOUR EDUCATION AND HAS BEEN WORKING AS A DANCE HALL HOSTESS. HER FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN POOR AND SHE HAS EITHER LEFT HOME OR IS CONSIDERED OUT OF CONTROL.

+SHE IS PROBABLY SINGLE, THOUGH SHE MAY HAVE COHABITED FOR A TIME, HAS NO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE TRAINING CENTRE FOR AN OFFENCE AGAINST PROPERTY.

+ONCE SHE HAS ADJUSTED TO THE CENTRE SHE SEEMS TO PROGRESS RAPIDLY, HAS FEW DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS AND CAN EXPECT TO BE RELEASED WITHIN ABOUT 10 MONTHS.

+SHE RESPONDS WELL TO AFTER-CARE SUPERVISION AND HER CHANCES OF SUCCESS APPEAR TO BE EXCELLENT.+

THE ABOVE IS A CLEAR PROFILE OF THE TYPICAL TRAINING CENTRE FEMALE INMATE -- AS DRAWN BY MISS K.A. HAUGHTON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN, IN HER REVIEW OF THE TAI LAM TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE YEARS 1969-74.

THE TAI LAM TRAINING CENTRE FOR GIRLS -- ONE OF THE THREE SECTIONS OF THE TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN -- TOOK IN ITS FIRST INMATE IN DECEMBER, 1969 WHEN THE LAI CHI KOK PRISON WAS TRANSFERRED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT TAI LAM CHUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SINCE THEN AND UNTIL MAY THIS YEAR, 78 GIRLS BETWEEN THE AGE OF 14 AND 21 HAD BEEN DETAINED, AND SO FAR 48 INMATES HAD BEEN DISCHARGED, EACH HAVING SPENT AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 10 MONTHS IN THE CENTRE.

THE PERIOD OF DETENTION UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION IS FROM SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS. +BUT THE PERIOD SPENT IN THE CENTRE IS DETERMINED BY THE EXTENT OF A TRAINEE'S RESPONSE TO THE TREATMENT AND TRAINING CENTRE,+ MISS HAUGHTON EXPLAINED.

+MAXIMUM RESPONSE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN REACHED WHEN SHE CAN EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL, CAN GET ALONG WELL WITH HER PEERS, IS NOT HOSTILE TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY AND HAS GIVEN EVIDENCE OF A GROWING SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT RELEASE IS RECOMMENDED,+ SHE ADDED.

BEFORE BEING ACTUALLY RELEASED, THE GIRLS ARE USUALLY GRANTED HOME LEAVE OF ABOUT 48 HOURS. THIS IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE TRAINEE WHO IS NEARING RELEASE TO READJUST TO THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND TO ENABLE HER TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

/+DURING THE

+DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, A TOTAL OF 39 INMATES WAS GRANTED HOME LEAVE AND ONLY ONE OF THEM HAD ABUSED THIS PRIVILEGE BY NOT RETURNING. HOWEVER, SHE WAS RECAPTURED AFTER BEING AT LARGE FOR 18 MONTHS,+ MISS HAUGHTON REPORTED.

THE REVIEW ALSO SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF OFFENCES THE GIRLS HAD COMMITTED PRIOR TO BEING SENT TO THE TRAINING CENTRE WAS CLASSIFIED AS BEING AGAINST PROPERTY, I.E. THEFT, ROBBERY AND SIMPLE LARCENY. THE OTHERS INCLUDED OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC MORALITY, ASSAULT, POSSESSION OF DRUGS AND BREACH OF PROBATION.

OF THE 78 GIRLS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED, 30 HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNDER COURT SUPERVISION OR UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE REVIEW REPORTED.

IT POINTED OUT THAT EXCEPT FOR THE YEAR 1969, THE MEAN AGES OF THE INMATES HAD REMAINED RELATIVELY CONSTANT, RANGING FROM 16.5 IN 1970 TO 16.29 IN 1973.

ABOUT HALF THE GIRLS HAD LEFT HOME PRIOR TO BEING SENTENCED TO THE CENTRE AND 23 PER CENT WERE DESCRIBED BY THEIR FAMILIES AS BEING COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL. OVER 50 PER CENT CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION.

MISS HAUGHTON NOTED THAT MOST OF THE INMATES WHO COMMITTED DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES DID SO IN THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AFTER ADMISSION WHEN THEY WERE STILL IN AN UNSETTLED STATE. +BUT MISBEHAVIOUR TAPERS OFF RAPIDLY AS THE TRAINEES ACQUIRE A MEASURE OF SELF-CONTROL,+ SHE ADDED.

IN 1971, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF AN ASSISTANT OFFICER DURING AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT, FIVE GIRLS WERE CHARGED WITH MURDER AND AS A RESULT, THREE OF THEM WERE FOUND GUILTY AND WERE TRANSFERRED TO PRISON.

ONE OTHER INMATE WHO COMMITTED A SERIOUS ASSAULT WAS ALSO TRANSFERRED TO PRISON THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

OVER 70 PER CENT OF THE 78 GIRLS HAVE AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF PRIMARY FOUR OR BELOW AND THIS TOGETHER WITH A LACK OF SALEABLE SKILLS ON THEIR PART HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE AFTERCARE OFFICERS TO HELP THEM +SECURE MEANINGFUL AND FINANCIALLY REWARDING EMPLOYMENT.+

+THE FACT THAT OVER 50 PER CENT OF THE TRAINEES STATED ON RECEPTION THAT THEY WERE WORKING AS DANCE HALL HOSTESSES PRESENTS AN ADDED CHALLENGE FOR THE AFTERCARE OFFICERS,+ MISS HAUGHTON POINTED OUT.

OF THE 48 DISCHARGED DURING THIS PERIOD, 35 BECAME FACTORY WORKERS.

AFTERCARE WORK IS ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE TRAINING CENTRE. THE AFTERCARE PROCESS IS A CONTINUOUS ONE WHICH COMMENCES WITH THE TRAINEES' ADMISSION TO THE CENTRE, EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME AND CONTINUES DURING THE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PERIOD.

IN EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAMME OF THE PAST FOUR AND A HALF YEARS, MISS HAUGHTON SAID THAT OF THE 48 INMATES DISCHARGED, SO FAR, ONLY FOUR HAD BEEN RECALLED.

AT THE SAME TIME, SHE NOTED, ONLY ONE INMATE HAD BEEN RECONVICTED ON FURTHER CHARGES DURING THE SUPERVISION PERIOD.

+THE INCULCATION OF GOOD SELF-DISCIPLINARY HABITS RATHER THAN THE INFLECTION OF FURTHER PUNISHMENT IS ONE OF THE BASIC TENETS OF THE TAI LAM TRAINING CENTRE, AND THE EXTREMELY LOW RECIDIVISH AND RECONVICTION RATE MUST BE TAKEN AS A MEASURE OF ITS SUCCESS,+ MISS HAUGHTON CONCLUDED IN HER REVIEW.

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T.V. ARTISTES TO SELL LOTTERY TICKETS IN CENTRAL
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FIVE POPULAR ARTISTES WHO PLAY THE KO FAMILY IN THE TELEVISION DRAMA SERIES +BELOW THE LION ROCK+ WILL HELP SELL TICKETS OF THE SEVENTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY AT STATUE SQUARE BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 6 P.M. ON MONDAY (AUGUST 19).

THEY ARE MR. LEUNG MING, MR. TSANG KONG, MISS FUNG SIU-CHUN, MISS CHAN KAR-YEE AND MISS KIMMY GOT.

UP TO 12 NOON TODAY THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD REACHED 409,000.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE
----- TO COVER THE LOTTERY SALE AT STATUE SQUARE ON
MONDAY BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 6 P.M.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE ORGANIZES BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN
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IN RESPONSE TO THE RED CROSS'S APPEAL FOR BLOOD DONATIONS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN HAS ORGANIZED A BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN DAY NEXT TUESDAY (AUGUST 20).

ALSO CO-OPERATING IN THE PROJECT IS THE RED CROSS AND THE CENTRE'S SELF-PROGRAMMING GROUP +HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN+.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES, AN EXHIBITION WHICH WILL LAST THE WHOLE DAY, A PUBLICITY MOVIE SHOW FROM 3 TO 5 P.M. AND THE COLLECTION OF BLOOD FROM 4 TO 9 P.M. THESE WILL ALL TAKE PLACE AT THE HALL OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THE WARDEN OF THE CENTRE, MRS. MARGARET AU, SAID THAT ABOUT 500 LETTERS HAD BEEN SENT TO AGENCIES, OFFICES, FACTORIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS IN TSUEN WAN TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE RED CROSS BY DONATING BLOOD. SHE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF ITS KIND IN TSUEN WAN AND SINCERELY HOPED THE RESIDENTS WOULD RESPOND TO THIS MEANINGFUL SERVICE.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE EVENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20.

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SERVICE SCHEME FOR THE AGED
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A GROUP OF 30 VOLUNTEERS ARE SPENDING THIS MONTH VISITING OLD PEOPLE LIVING IN SHEK LEI, KUAI CHUNG AND TAI WO HAU HOUSING ESTATES OFFERING THEIR SERVICES TO HELP THEM IN SUCH MATTERS AS BUYING FOOD, WRITING LETTERS, CLEANING THEIR HOMES OR ESCORTING THEM TO CLINICS OR ON VISITS TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE +ENTHUSIASTS SOCIETY OF HONG KONG+, WILL PROVIDE THESE SERVICES FOR PERIODS UP TO SIX MONTHS AT A TIME IF NEEDED.

IN ALL THEY WILL BE VISITING SOME 300 ELDERLY PEOPLE AGED 60 AND ABOVE LIVING IN THE ESTATES, AND WILL BE WORKING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE IN SHEK LEI.

BEFORE UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT THE VOLUNTEERS WERE BRIEFED ON HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AND ON THE TYPES OF EXISTING SOCIAL SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE AGED.

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