



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1977

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OVERHAUL OF CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972, IS BEING RE-ORGANISED AND WILL BE COMPUTERISED LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE REGISTRY WILL THEN GIVE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND READILY ACCESSIBLE PICTURE OF DRUG ABUSE TRENDS IN HONG KONG AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PREVENTIVE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES. IT WILL THUS BECOME AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK.

THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE REGISTRY IS BASED ON A MASTER PLAN PRODUCED BY MR. BENT WERBELL, A DATA PROCESSING EXPERT OF THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WHO WAS HERE LAST YEAR UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE U.S.A. NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE TO STUDY WAYS OF CREATING A NEW REGISTRY BASED ON MODERN STATISTICAL AND COMPUTER CONCEPTS.

THE PLAN, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, IS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES.

PHASE I COMPRISES MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORGANISATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REGISTRY, UNDER THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A REVISED REPORTING FORM AND PROCEDURE, FOR COLLECTING INFORMATION. THIS WAS BEGUN ON SEPTEMBER 1 LAST YEAR AND IS NOW IN AN ADVANCED STAGE.

PHASE II IS THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE NEW COMPUTERISED SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING THE DATA. MR. WERBELL IS EXPECTED TO COME TO HONG KONG AGAIN THIS AUGUST TO HELP CARRY OUT THIS PHASE OF THE PLAN.

ADDITIONAL STAFF TO OPERATE THE NEW SYSTEM, INCLUDING A STATISTICAL OFFICER WHO IS EXPECTED TO SPECIALISE IN COLLECTING AND INTERPRETING DRUG STATISTICS- AND EXPENDITURE ON COMMERCIAL COMPUTER TIME, HAVE BEEN APPROVED RECENTLY BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE FIRST COMPUTER PRINT-OUT OF THE REVAMPED REGISTRY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AROUND THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

IT WILL REVEAL, AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS, THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL ADDICT POPULATION, SUCH AS THE AGE GROUPS OF ADDICTS, RATIO OF MALES TO FEMALES, WHETHER ANY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THEM ARE SWITCHING TO SYNTHETIC DRUGS AS A RESULT OF THE CRACK-DOWN ON HEROIN AND OPIUM SUPPLIES, AND WHETHER DRUG ABUSE IS SPREADING TO PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN AREAS.

SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICIES (CURRENTLY COSTING APPROXIMATELY \$40 MILLION A YEAR), AND IN IDENTIFYING AREAS IN WHICH CHANGES OF POLICY OR EMPHASIS MAY BE NEEDED.

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AS WITH ALL RESEARCH WORK HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO HAVE PRACTICAL VALUE, THE TIME LAG BETWEEN DATA COLLECTION AND THE PUBLICATION OF FINDINGS MUST BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM. IN THIS RESPECT, THE COMPUTER SYSTEM TO BE USED FOR THE REGISTRY WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE PRINT-OUT ANALYSES AT SHORT AND REGULAR INTERVALS AS REQUIRED.

ANOTHER ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS ITS +MATCHING+ CAPABILITY. BY USING DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, THE SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ONE ADDICT REPORTED TEN TIMES AND TEN ADDICTS REPORTED ONCE. THIS WILL REMOVE THE POSSIBILITY OF DUPLICATION OF REPORTS WHICH WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR DEFECTS OF THE REGISTRY IN THE PAST.

THE EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCURACY OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM, HOWEVER, DEPEND LARGELY ON THE CO-OPERATION OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE POLICE, THE PRISONS, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS, AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS.

A STANDARD AND SIMPLE FORM, WHICH TAKES ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO FILL OUT, IS USED BY EVERY REPORTING SOURCE WHEN IT FIRST COMES INTO CONTACT WITH AN INDIVIDUAL ADDICT. THIS FORM WAS PUT INTO USE ON SEPTEMBER 1 LAST YEAR.

COMPLETE ANONYMITY IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL ADDICTS REPORTED TO THE REGISTRY AND INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS WILL BE KEPT ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.

UP TO THE END OF MARCH, SOME 18,000 REPORTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AT THE REGISTRY. THESE REPORTS, TOGETHER WITH REPORTS TO COME IN DURING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, WILL EVENTUALLY BE FED INTO THE COMPUTER WHEN PHASE II OF THE RE-ORGANISATION PLAN BEGINS.

THE NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM TO BE USED FOR THE REGISTRY WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT SPIN-OFF: IT MAKES USE OF A VERY SOPHISTICATED INTEGRATED DATA-BASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, IN WHICH MR. WERBELL IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERT. THIS CAN BE USED AS A PROTOTYPE FOR SIMILAR SYSTEMS IN OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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## GUIDE TO INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG

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A NEW GUIDE TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN SPECIALLY PRODUCED FOR USE BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE BOOKLET, ENTITLED +INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT HONG KONG+, ALSO SERVES AS A USEFUL SOURCE OF REFERENCE TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. IT CAN BE OBTAINED FOR \$10 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

HANDSOMELY ILLUSTRATED IN FULL COLOUR, THE BOOKLET GIVES COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON WHAT HONG KONG HAS TO OFFER THE INVESTOR, COVERING SUBJECTS SUCH AS FINANCE AND TAXATION, INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, LAND AND BUILDINGS AND LABOUR.

THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS STATED IN THE BOOKLET, WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AND SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIES WHICH WILL BROADEN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE.

IT IS EMPHASISED THAT NO DISTINCTION IS DRAWN BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMPANIES -- ALL ARE EQUALLY WELCOME.

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES ARE LISTED WHICH ARE CONSIDERED AS GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE POTENTIAL INVESTOR. THESE ARE:

- \* LIGHT AND MEDIUM HEAVY ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES PRODUCING SUCH GOODS AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS, SAFETY RAZORS, OFFICE MACHINES, PACKAGING MACHINES, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, PRECISION INSTRUMENTS, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ENGINES, AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS, DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, MACHINE TOOLS, ETC.
- \* INDUSTRIES PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY SUPPORTING AND SERVICING FACILITIES SUCH AS METAL CASTING, FORGING, ELECTROPLATING, TOOL AND DIE MAKING, PRECISION MACHINING AND HEAT TREATMENT= AND
- \* THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY PRODUCING SOPHISTICATED GOODS SUCH AS COMPUTERS, TELEVISION SETS, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, ETC.

OVERSEAS COMPANIES ARE WELCOME, THE BOOKLET SAYS, NOT SO MUCH FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CAPITAL THEY MAY BRING WITH THEM BUT BECAUSE THEY MAY INTRODUCE MORE SOPHISTICATED MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL SKILLS AND NEW IDEAS.

IN JUNE 1976 THERE WERE AT LEAST 290 FACTORIES IN HONG KONG, EITHER FULLY OR PARTLY OWNED BY OVERSEAS INTERESTS. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYED A TOTAL LABOUR FORCE OF ABOUT 62,000 WORKERS, OR 8 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE. TOTAL DIRECT OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AMOUNTED TO HK\$1,770 MILLION WITH THE MAIN SOURCES BEING THE U.S.A., JAPAN, BRITAIN, THAILAND AND AUSTRALIA.

THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH SUCH OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS ARE CONCENTRATED ARE ELECTONICS, TEXTILES, WATCHES AND CLOCKS AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

IT IS NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING TREND IN RECENT YEARS FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS TO ESTABLISH IN HONG KONG MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN THE MORE SOPHISTICATED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED INDUSTRIES.

EXAMPLES OF SUCH OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS ARE A MARINE ENGINE PLANT, A POLYSTYRENE PLANT, A HEAT TRANSFER PRINTING PAPER PLANT, A SOPHISTICATED MINIATURE LIGHT BULB FACTORY AND A PLANT PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY HAND TOOLS.

THE BOOKLET EXPLAINS IN SOME DETAIL HOW LAND CAN BE ACQUIRED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. MOST INDUSTRIAL LAND IS SOLD BY AUCTION, BUT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES, WHICH ARE OF A RELATIVELY HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO SELLS LAND ON SPECIAL TERMS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL ESTATES DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HEAVIER INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED. THE FIRST OF THESE ESTATES IS BEING DEVELOPED AT TAI PO.

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RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR MUSIC EXAMINATIONS  
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THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC, LONDON, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ENTRIES FOR THIS YEAR'S PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS HAD REACHED AN ALL-TIME RECORD OF 8,580 CANDIDATES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ASSOCIATED BOARD IN LONDON DESCRIBED THE 17 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE 1976 FIGURE AS 'QUITE STAGGERING'. HE HAS ADVISED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAT TEN EXAMINERS WILL BE COMING TO HONG KONG IN AUTUMN.

THE PANEL OF EXAMINERS WILL INCLUDE SIR KEITH FALKNER WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON, FROM 1960 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1974 AND DR. KENNETH BARRITT WHO RECENTLY RETIRED FROM THE PRINCIPALSHIP OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMA.

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