



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, June 28, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Working group studying the social causes of crime is inviting comments from all associated and interested parties	1
The Director of Education announces that the summer vacation will begin as scheduled	3
District organisations receiving more than \$400,000 for summer youth activities	5
One-year training course in work with pre-school children being offered	6
Secondary school children will soon have the chance to practise the art of puppetry	7
Dangerous building in Western District to be demolished	8
Improved facilities provided in the extended Salisbury Road Post Office	8
Five workers killed in construction site accidents last month	9
Dr. G.H. Choa announces plans to look after expectant mothers	10

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 1 -

COMMENTS BEING SOUGHT ON SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME

The working group set up by the government to study the social causes of crime in Hong Kong is inviting a number of groups and organisations to participate in its study of this problem.

Mr. Peter Williams, the chairman of the working group, which is a sub-committee of the Fight Violent Crime Campaign Committee, said today that he had written to a number of bodies, including the two universities, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Bar Association, and the Hong Kong Federation of Students.

"We know that their own studies in this field will make a very useful contribution to our work," said Mr. Williams. "And similarly we hope that other organisations who may wish to comment on the social causes of crime because of their close association with the problem at a working level, will be able to do so.

"It would be helpful if we received written material in the first instance, which would be followed by discussion where this was necessary."

He said it was natural for nearly every member of the community to have his own views and theories on the factors contributing to the rise in the incidence of violent crime over the last year or so - and leading to the current campaign aimed at curbing this growth.

For this reason, his working group would also be happy to have the views of any individual member of the community which should be submitted in writing so that the group can have the opportunity of studying them in detail.

/Mr. Williams

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 2 -

Mr. Williams pointed out that many opinions had already been expressed in the press and elsewhere, and the working group was in the process of studying these.

But obviously the informed views of those with experience of the problem at close quarters, through observation in the course of their specialised work or through a serious desire to investigate the circumstances for themselves, were preferable to theory and speculation.

"We have already accumulated a considerable store of such material," he commented. "Through the City District Officers, for example, we have gained a comprehensive insight into public attitudes towards crime and punishment.

"We have some extremely useful facts and figures supplied by the police, prisons, social welfare, education and census and statistics departments.

"This material includes charts, tables and detailed statistical breakdowns of various component factors that might conceivably have some bearing on criminal motives, incentives and development."

So far the group has held four meetings to discuss and assess this material.

Mr. Williams added: "We are fully conscious of the need to examine every factor of this complex subject. And we will be calling, from time to time, for assistance from all groups and individuals competent to offer advice."

Because of the extent of this problem the working group expects its study to continue for several months to come.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 3 -

SUMMER VACATION TO BEGIN AS SCHEDULED

The Director of Education has given careful consideration to the suggestion that the current school term should be extended by two days but is unable to agree to it.

Explaining the position in a circular to heads of all schools, Mr. Charles Lowe, the Deputy Director of Education (Administration) said: "It is not envisaged, in the circumstances, as a productive way of serving the interest of the pupils, who will by then have completed their course of study and the terminal examination and will be anxious for the chance to relax and refresh themselves after a year of arduous work.

"It has therefore been decided that the summer programme should begin immediately when the term ends, in accordance with the arrangements already planned."

He said the summer programme has been designed to broaden pupils' experience and interests in a non-academic way and the success of the greatly expanded programme this year will depend largely, as it has in the past, on the enthusiastic help by teachers.

Mr. Lowe pointed out that a useful contribution teachers could make was by offering voluntary help to support the summer programme either by supplementing the programme already arranged in their own schools for their pupils or by volunteering to give additional support to the summer activities programmes co-ordinated by the government.

/In the

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 4 -

In the latter case, teachers are requested to write to the Association of Volunteers for Service, Ridley House, 2 Upper Albert Road, Hong Kong, or if they wish to obtain further information they can telephone Miss V. Chan on Tel No. 5-742376.

"Any such help by teachers will be greatly appreciated," he said.

A spokesman for the Education Department said that a reply on the lines of the school circular has been sent to the Joint Secretariat of Hong Kong Educational Bodies.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 5 -

FINANCING OF SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

A sum of \$415,050 is being made available to district organisations for conducting summer youth activities this year.

Of this amount, \$215,000 is coming from government through the Social Welfare Department and the other \$200,050 has been donated by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The money is again being administered by the Social Welfare Department in consultation with the Secretariat for Home Affairs and the New Territories Administration.

It will be used to meet basic programme expenses including food, transportation, prizes, rental of equipment and sites and handicraft material.

First payments have already gone out to some 197 different associations and groups. These are members of the 15 district youth recreational co-ordinating committees.

Their programmes include a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities in which young people all over Hong Kong can participate.

The money from the Jockey Club is just part of the \$1.07 million it is donating to the overall summer youth programme this year. The total monetary contribution from the government amounts to more than \$800,000. The Urban Council estimates that its contribution will be around \$185,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 6 -

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN WORK WITH PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Applications are invited for entry into a full-time course leading to a "Certificate in work with pre-school children." Organised by the Social Welfare Department, this is a one year course which will commence on September 24.

To enrol, an applicant has to possess a Hong Kong Certificate of Education and be between 18 and 25 years of age.

The trainees must be willing to work with a non-profit-making nursery for a minimum of one year on completion of the course, if employment is available.

The course will include classroom study and supervised field work.

Students will be trained in work with pre-school children and provided with opportunities to test and to integrate child care knowledge in the field.

No tuition fees will be charged and trainees may receive a monthly allowance of \$200.

Application forms are obtainable from the Training Section of the Social Welfare Department at the Lady Trench Day Nursery and Training Centre, 44 Oi Kwan Road, Hong Kong.

Completed application forms have to be returned to the above-mentioned address on or before August 3.

- - - - -

/7

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 7 -

THE MASTERS OF PUPPETRY

The development of creative talents of some secondary school students may be assisted in the future by the age-old custom of puppet-making and puppet shows.

On Saturday, a group of 60 secondary school art teachers will be given a demonstration on how to make hand and glove puppets and how to stage a puppet show.

A spokesman for the Education Department said it is hoped that from this demonstration, the teachers will be able to introduce the subject into their classes - not only to stimulate interest in puppetry but also to develop the students' creative and expressive talents.

"It is the first time that a demonstration on this ancient form of entertainment has been organised by the Arts and Crafts Section of the Education Department in such a way," he said.

At the same time, the section hopes the scheme will help to promote integrated teaching which is now being practised in schools. "In this way teachers may be able to use a puppet to highlight various historical characters".

Saturday's demonstration in puppet-making and puppet show will be given by Mr. Calvin Wong, a secondary school art teacher and a well-known television compere.

He will introduce the other teachers to the various materials used in puppet-making, and will then stage a show which will be in the form of a drama with background music and stage decoration.

In recent years there has been a substantial growth of interest in puppetry as a craft and an educational subject in schools in a number of countries.

Saturday's demonstration to secondary school art teachers will be held in the Education Department's Cultural Crafts Centre at Pak Fuk Road, North Point.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 8 -

DANGEROUS BUILDING TO BE DEMOLISHED

The Building Authority today declared 11 Pan Kwai Lane, in Western District liable to become dangerous and ordered its demolition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that this three-storey pre-war building had been under routine observation for some time.

Following a fire, adjoining buildings were recently closed and demolished which disclosed the defective condition of the walls of No. 2 Tsung Sau Lane. The latter was then also closed and an order has been made to demolish this building which shares a party wall with No. 11 Pan Kwai Lane.

Due to defective brickwork and decayed timber there is a risk of collapse as a result of demolition. Notice of intention to apply for a closure order in Victoria District Court, at 9.30 a.m. on July 26 was posted today.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BETTER FACILITIES AT KOWLOON PARCEL OFFICE

New parcel acceptance facilities have been provided in the extended portion of the Kowloon Parcel Office in Salisbury Road.

Equipped with air conditioning, the new accommodation and facilities will be opened to the public from Tuesday (July 3).

A spokesman for the Post Office said today that this is part of a general improvement programme for the Kowloon Parcel Office costing some \$440,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 9 -

ACCIDENTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

Five workers were killed and 366 injured last month in accidents on construction sites, according to figures released today by the Labour Department.

Nearly half the injured workers were hurt by falling from a height, being struck by falling objects, or tripping over objects.

"This is a regular pattern - and it's easy to prevent," the Industrial Safety Training Officer, Mr. Chan Wing-kai said today.

"All floor openings should be securely covered, barred off by metal plates, or properly fenced. And suitable, adequate means of access should be provided to all scaffolds, piling frames and cranes," he said.

Mr. Chan said that workers should be encouraged to wear proper safety belts and safety helmets.

He said that to prevent another common cause of accidents - electrical faults - management should use tough rubber flex and proper plugs.

"Metal-cased electrical equipment and portable tools should always be properly earthed," he said.

The Labour Department has recently intensified its inspection of work sites in a bid to reduce the increasing number of accidents in the construction industry.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 10 -

PLANS TO LOOK AFTER EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Commenting on the outcome of tonight's meeting of government midwives, the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa announced this (Thursday) evening that arrangements had been made to minimise any inconvenience to expectant mothers and to allay their understandable worry or concern.

"I would be sorry if the midwives decided to take this step because obviously our midwifery service will no doubt be much inconvenienced," Dr. Choa said. "I have always believed in the high sense of responsibility, both personal and professional, which midwives have shown, and I sincerely hope that they will reconsider this decision.

"As we said a few days ago, the Government will further consider the position of the midwives, if they can produce the evidence they say they have that other organisations pay better salaries and benefits to their counterparts in the private sector than Government does.

"But the threat of resignation has been made, not once but several times, and it is now necessary, in the circumstances and in order to allay concern, to announce our plans so that expectant mothers will not be inconvenienced by such action."

Dr. Choa emphasised that, although government midwives had been working minimum normal hours since Tuesday, April 10, and eight maternity clinics out of 27 had been closed, deliveries had continued normally; no untoward incident had occurred although clearly there has been some inconvenience.

/Plans

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 11 -

Plans to be activated in case resignations take place, are designed to maintain this record, and to allow deliveries to proceed with a minimum of inconvenience to expectant mothers.

He then outlined these steps:-

- * Expectant mothers will be seen as usual in the pre-natal clinics of the maternal and child health centres. They will be issued with cards on which their delivery dates are recorded, and asking them to enter hospital either on that date, or before.
- * In addition to government hospitals, expectant mothers will be directed to government-assisted hospitals, where all charges beyond the normal government hospital charge of \$2 a day (inclusive) will be met by the Government.
- * Although more of the 19 maternity clinics at present remaining open will have to be closed, the maternity clinics on outlying islands will remain open, because they are staffed by nurse-midwives.

/"If these

Thursday, June 28, 1973

- 12 -

"If these plans have to be implemented," Dr. Choa said, "expectant mothers may have to make a longer journey to the hospital to which they will be directed. My staff will make every effort to direct them to the hospital nearest to their home. I must emphasise that expectant mothers should not wait until the last minute to contact us - and of course I would give that general advice in any circumstances.

"If this advice is followed, these plans will enable the maternity service to carry on without undue inconvenience to expectant mothers."

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 8.00 p.m.