



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
TOPLEY AIMS FOR QUALITY IN EDUCATION	1
GOVERNOR JOINS YOUTHS TO CLEAN UP LAI CHI WO BEACHES .	3
MORE POWER, SPEED AND EFFICIENCY PLANNED FOR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES	4
WATER CUT IN SHEUNG WAN AREA	5

TOPLEY AIMS FOR QUALITY IN EDUCATION

* * * *

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TOWARDS ACHIEVING ITS TARGET OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT SUBSIDISED PLACES FOR A THREE-YEAR COURSE IN JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS FOR ALL PRIMARY VI LEAVERS FROM 1978, AND IN FORMS IV AND V FOR 40 PER CENT OF THE 15-16 AGE GROUP AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, TODAY REITERATED THAT THE QUICKEST WAY OF ENSURING THAT EVERY PRIMARY VI LEAVER OBTAINED AN AIDED FORM I PLACE WAS BY +BUYING+ SOME ADDITIONAL PLACES IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS AN INTERIM MEASURE. BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE ULTIMATE AIM MUST BE TO PROVIDE AS MANY PLACES AS POSSIBLE IN GOVERNMENT, AIDED AND NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS.

+THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME WHICH WILL ALSO PERMIT THE PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF TEMPORARY EXPEDIENTS INCLUDING THE PHASING OUT OF FLOATING CLASSES AND EXTENDED DAY IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

THE CURRENT BUILDING PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR 83 SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECTS - GOVERNMENT, AIDED AND PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING - TO BE COMPLETED BY 1981. MOST OF THEM WILL BE IN THE NEW TOWNS AND IN DEVELOPING AREAS.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS THUS ENSURING THAT THERE WILL BE GOOD SCHOOLS IN PLACES WHERE THE CHILDREN WILL BE LIVING. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS MAINTAINING STANDARDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF FORM I BOUGHT PLACES IN BOTH PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS LIKELY TO INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT FIGURE OF 30,595 TO 34,050 IN 1977-78 AND TO 40,525 IN 1978-79. IT WAS LIKELY TO DECREASE TO 37,495 IN 1979-80 AND TO 31,715 IN 1980-81.

BUT THE DECREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BOUGHT PLACES IN FORMS I TO III WOULD BE A GRADUAL ONE.

IN FACT, THE NUMBER OF FORMS I TO III BOUGHT PLACES WAS LIKELY TO RISE FROM THE CURRENT FIGURE OF 73,320 TO 82,041 IN 1977-78, TO 93,505 IN 1978-79 AND TO 99,750 IN 1979-80. IT WOULD THEN DECLINE TO 98,185 IN 1980-81.

WHILE THE NUMBER OF FORMS I TO III BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WOULD DECLINE, THE NUMBER OF SUCH PLACES IN PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS WOULD IN FACT INCREASE.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ANY PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WHICH PLAN TO CHANGE INTO AN INCORPORATED ENTITY TO BE OPERATED ON A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BASIS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

APPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF PER CAPUT GRANT AS NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE EXISTING NON-PROFIT-MAKING PRIVATE SCHOOLS ALREADY IN THE SYSTEM, PROVIDED THAT THEY MEET THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTAINING SUCH STATUS AND ALSO MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

LATEST STATISTICS (SEPTEMBER 1976) SHOW THAT THERE ARE 231 PRIVATE SECONDARY DAY SCHOOLS - 77 NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND 154 INDEPENDENT. OF THESE, 95 ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE THREE-YEAR BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME. THIRTY-SIX OF THE 95 ARE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS AND FIFTY-NINE ARE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE NON-PROFIT-MAKING PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROVIDE NEARLY HALF OF THE THREE-YEAR BOUGHT PLACES. THESE SCHOOLS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF PER CAPUT GRANT.

ANOTHER 36 ASSISTED PRIVATE SCHOOLS, WHICH ARE ALSO NON-PROFIT-MAKING, WILL BECOME FULLY SUBSIDISED IN SEPTEMBER 1978. AT PRESENT THESE SCHOOLS RECEIVE SALARY AND CAPITATION GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR FORM I STUDENTS PAY THE STANDARD FEE OF \$40 PER MONTH.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FIVE OTHER ASSISTED PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THESE SCHOOLS ARE IN RECEIPT OF CLASSROOM ALLOWANCE AND SALARY SUPPLEMENTATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. TOPLEY SAID HE WAS CARRYING OUT GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENSURE THAT THE OVERALL POLICY AIMS IN THE EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION WERE ACHIEVED.

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE NO SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FROM 1978 ONWARDS, PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS COULD CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN THE +BOUGHT PLACES+ SCHEME.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE POLICY OUTLINED IN THE 1974 WHITE PAPER WAS EVENTUALLY TO REDUCE THE EXTENT OF THE BUYING OF PLACES IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS THROUGH CONTINUATION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME IN THE AIDED AND PRIVATE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SECTORS.

THE DIRECTOR RECALLED THAT IN 1970 WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FIRST APPROVED THE PROPOSAL FOR THE BUYING OF PLACES AT FORMS I TO III LEVEL, IT WAS STATED THAT THESE PLACES SHOULD BE BOUGHT IN SUITABLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, THUS INDICATING THAT SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE TO BE SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME. THUS, THE DEMAND THAT ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS, IRRESPECTIVE OF STANDARDS, BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME COULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED. MR. TOPLEY STRESSED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF USING PUBLIC FUNDS WISELY AND OF GUIDING PARENTS IN THE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS.

MR. TOPLEY AGAIN STRESSED THAT HE PERSONALLY LOOKED FORWARD TO A CONTINUING DIALOUGE WITH THE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS TO MEET AND OVERCOME PROBLEMS AND DIFFERENCES. IN FACT, THE DIRECTOR PERSONALLY CHAIRS THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS ADVISORY BOARD.

ON APRIL 19, MR. TOPLEY HAD AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH MR. M.T. CHENG OF THE HONG KONG PRIVATE ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION. THIS FOLLOWED A LENGTHY MEETING ON APRIL 4 BETWEEN MR. CHENG AND THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. BASIL BOARD.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1977

- 3 -

GOVERNOR JOINS YOUTHS TO CLEAN UP LAI CHI WO BEACHES
* * * *

THE BEACHES AT LAI CHI WO OFF SHA TAU KOK WERE A LOT CLEANER FOLLOWING A TWO-DAY ASSAULT BY 45 MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

SIR MURRAY ARRIVED AT THE BEACH YESTERDAY (SATURDAY) AND HAD JOINED THE YOUTHS IN CLEANING UP ONE OF THE BEACHES THERE.

THIS MORNING AT 10.30 A.M. THE GOVERNOR AGAIN ROWED ASHORE ON HIS DINGHY TO HELP WHEN HE SAW THE YOUNGSTERS STARTING WORK AT ANOTHER BEACH.

SIR MURRAY WAS MET AT THE BEACH BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JAMES SO= DISTRICT OFFICER OF TAI PO, MR. CLIVE OXLEY= SENIOR URBAN SERVICES OFFICERS= POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (FRONTIER), MR. Y.Y. LEE AND FIVE RURAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES LED BY MR. LAU YUM-MAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TAU KOK RURAL COMMITTEE.

SHORTLY AFTER A BRIEF CHAT WITH THE WELCOMING PARTY, THE GOVERNOR GOT DOWN TO WORK. HE WAS JOINED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE RURAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES.

THE EXERCISE TODAY LASTED ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS UNDER THE BLAZING SUN, AND THE GOVERNOR NOTED THE CHEERFULNESS OF THE YOUNGSTERS WHEN HE HEARD THEM SINGING.

THE WHOLE OPERATION SINCE YESTERDAY GATHERED SEVERAL TONS OF RUBBISH FROM ABOUT TWO MILES OF BEACHES. IT MARKED THE END OF THE MONTH-LONG CLEAN UNGAZETTED BEACH CAMPAIGN IN WHICH MORE THAN 300 YOUTHS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE CLEAN YOUR CITY GROUPS AND THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, TOOK PART.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE ENTHUSIASM AND CIVIC MINDEDNESS OF THE YOUNGSTERS, THE GOVERNOR LATER TREATED THEM TO A PICNIC LUNCH.

AT ONE STAGE OF THE CLEANING UP EXERCISE, SIR MURRAY NOTED THE SIGNS OF THE BURNING OF FIRE CRACKERS AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TAU KOK RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. LAU OF THE DANGERS OF SETTING OFF FIRE CRACKERS NEAR TREES.

SIR MURRAY ASKED MR. LAU TO INFORM VILLAGERS OF SHA TAU KOK THAT THE BURNING OF FIRE CRACKERS WAS ILLEGAL AND THAT IT WAS POSING A THREAT TO THE VEGETATION.

HE SAID THAT SHA TAU KOK WAS A RESPONSIBLE VILLAGE AND INVITED MR. LAU TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS IN OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS OF FIRE CRACKER BURNING. SIR MURRAY ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS WITH THE AREA'S RURAL COMMITTEE LATER THIS YEAR.

MR. LAU, THANKED THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADVICE AND ASSURED THAT A MEETING OF HIS COMMITTEE WILL BE SUMMONED TO PUT FORWARD SUGGESTIONS.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/4

- 4 -

MORE POWER, SPEED AND EFFICIENCY
PLANNED FOR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES

* * * * *

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO BUILD AT LEAST EIGHT NEW LAUNCHES IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO MODERNISE AND EXPAND THE GOVERNMENT'S FLEET OF VESSELS.

IT IS COMMITTED TO SPENDING \$11,670,000 ON SIX NEW REPLACEMENT LAUNCHES AND TWO ADDITIONAL ONES, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT UNDER ITS MAINTENANCE CARE TO 183.

MR. P. J. WU, SENIOR MARINE OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD, ESTIMATED THAT THE MAJORITY OF GOVERNMENT VESSELS ARE BETWEEN FIVE AND 20 YEARS OLD. ABOUT 10 PER CENT ARE LESS THAN FIVE YEARS OLD AND A FEW OVER 30 YEARS OLD.

IT IS THE CHIEF FUNCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD TO MAINTAIN THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF THE FLEET OF MECHANISED AND NON-MECHANISED VESSELS. MANY OF THE OLDER CRAFT HAVE LOST THEIR USEFULNESS BECAUSE OF THE DEMAND FOR SPEED, POWER AND EFFICIENCY TO MEET MODERN AND CONSTANTLY CHANGING REQUIREMENTS.

ONE OF THE EXAMPLES OF CHANGING NEEDS IS THE MARINE POLICE LAUNCHES. ABOUT ONE IN FOUR OF ITS LAUNCHES IS PRE-WAR BUILT. THESE OLDER LAUNCHES ARE CHARACTERISED BY THEIR WOODEN HULLS AND THE LACK OF SHIP-BOARD FACILITIES, MAKING THEM INCONVENIENT FOR ROUND-THE-CLOCK PATROL DUTIES AT SEA, MR. WU EXPLAINED.

A PROTOTYPE HARBOUR LAUNCH, DESIGNED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, WILL MAKE UP FOR THESE DEFICIENCIES AND WILL BE BUILT WHEN FUNDS ARE APPROVED. IT WILL INCORPORATE SUCH FACILITIES AS LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND A KITCHEN WHICH ARE NON-EXISTENT IN MOST POLICE LAUNCHES IN USE.

FIRE BOAT NO. 3 COMMISSIONED TO THE ABERDEEN FIRE STATION IN 1951 ALSO OUTLIVED ITS FUNCTIONS IN THAT FAST CHANGING FISHING VILLAGE. THE NEED TO RETIRE THE BOAT, WHICH IS TOO SMALL AND ILL-EQUIPPED, HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PRESENCE OF A BIG OIL DEPOT, THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC POWER STATION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF ABERDEEN AND AP LI CHAU AND INCREASED POPULATION.

IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, A NEW DEMAND IS DICTATED BY THE ESISTENCE OF THE CONTAINER PORT NOW SERVED BY SOME OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED SHIPS AFLOAT AND THE INDUSTRIALISATION OF TSING YI. AS A RESULT A \$6 MILLION FIRE BOAT ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO MEET ANY FIRE CONTINGENCY WILL BE BUILT ONCE FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE.

MR. WU EXPLAINED THAT ORDINARY FIRE BOATS ARE LESS EFFECTIVE IN FIGHTING A FIRE AT A TERMINAL BECAUSE OF THE STACKING OF CONTAINERS UP TO A FEW STOREYS HIGH AND THE VERY HIGH FREEBOARD OF **THIRD** GENERATION CONTAINERSHIPS.

ANOTHER REQUIREMENT IS AN ANTI-OIL POLLUTION LAUNCH FOR USE IN SHALLOW WATERS. AS CONVENTIONAL CRAFTS CANNOT WORK IN SHALLOW WATERS IN THE EVENT OF AN OIL SLICK APPROACHING A BEACH, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SPEND ABOUT \$500,000 TO BUILD A SHALLOW DRAUGHT ANTI-POLLUTION BOAT TO DEAL WITH THIS MENACE.

MR. WU SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL TAKE A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE THE NEW BOATS COULD BE PUT INTO SERVICE BECAUSE OF TENDER PROCEDURES AND THE TIME TAKEN TO DO THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION WORK.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1977

- 5 -

WATER CUT
* * *

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON TUESDAY (MAY 3) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

AFFECTED WILL BE THE WESTERN MARKET AND PREMISES IN BONHAM STRAND WEST, WING LOK STREET, DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, SUTHERLAND STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST AND MORRISON STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -