



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1974.

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

LIBRARY ON WHEELS

* * * *

SPECIAL LIBRARY FACILITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE THERE ARE NO PERMANENT LIBRARIES.

TWO LIBRARIES ON WHEELS EACH LADEN WITH ABOUT 1,000 BOOKS MAKE REGULAR CALLS AT 25 LIBRARY STATIONS IN VARIOUS VILLAGES IN SHATIN, TAI PO, TUEN MUN, FANLING AND SAI KUNG, WHERE THEY ARE EAGERLY AWAITED BY YOUNGSTERS AND ADULTS ALIKE.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE IS OPERATED BY THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS.

CHILDREN FROM THE VILLAGE THEY VISIT CAN EITHER READ THEIR FAVOURITE STORY BOOKS ON THE SPOT OR TAKE THEM HOME WHERE THEY CAN BE ENJOYED AT LEISURE.

EACH READER IS ALLOWED TO BORROW ONE BOOK OR TWO MAGAZINES AT ONE TIME. NO FEE IS CHARGED AND THE PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OR MEMBERSHIP IS VERY SIMPLE.

ACCORDING TO MR. WONG PAK-CHUEN, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE LIBRARY AND RURAL MOBILE SERVICES UNIT, THE DAILY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT THE LIBRARY STATIONS IS OVER 700 AND THE REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP OF THE TWO MOBILE LIBRARIES IS MORE THAN 6,000.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALSO MADE WITH A NUMBER OF VILLAGE SCHOOLS AND WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE READING ROOMS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH VOLUMES FOR LENDING TO THEIR PUPILS AND MEMBERS. THESE INCLUDE REFERENCE BOOKS, STORY BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

+FOR THIS SERVICE ALONE, SOME 2,500 BOOKS AND MAGAZINES ARE PROVIDED. EVERY TWO OR THREE MONTHS, THE TWO VANS WILL CALL AT THE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A FRESH SUPPLY OF VOLUMES,+ MR. WONG SAID.

PROVIDING A LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE RURAL PEOPLE IS ONLY PART OF THE WORK OF THE LIBRARY AND RURAL MOBILE SERVICES UNIT. IT ALSO OPERATES A MOBILE CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE TEAM FOR N.T. VILLAGES, ORGANISING A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN. THE PROGRAMMES IT PROVIDES INCLUDE PICNICS, SOCIAL GATHERINGS, VISITS, COMPETITIONS, GAMES AND SERVICE PROJECTS. YOUTHS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO SELF-PROGRAMMING GROUPS AND TO UNDERTAKE VOLUNTARY SERVICES.

APART FROM RUNNING THE TWO LIBRARIES ON WHEELS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, STAFF OF THE UNIT ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ADVICE PROCESSED BOOKS AND OTHER READING MATERIALS TO SIX OTHER LIBRARIES IN THE RURAL AND URBAN AREAS. THEY ARE ALL ATTACHED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY CENTRES TO FORM PART OF THE FACILITIES OFFERED BY THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1974.

THE TOTAL STOCK OF EACH LIBRARY RANGES FROM 11,000 TO 23,000 BOOKS.

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER LIBRARY WILL SOON BE OPENED IN CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE TO LOOK AFTER THE INTELLECTUAL NEEDS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THAT DISTRICT.

PLANS ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE MORE LIBRARY FACILITIES IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS WHICH ARE NOT YET SERVED BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

----- 0 -----