



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1978

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GOVERNOR OPENS NEW BRITISH COUNCIL CENTRE
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY THAT THE NEED FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING HAS PUT +GREAT PRESSURE+ ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG AS ELSEWHERE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW BRITISH COUNCIL CENTRE, SIR MURRAY POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE RAPID ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BECOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

+THIRTY YEARS AGO ENGLISH WAS IMPORTANT TO VERY FEW OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND A FEW PROFESSIONS. NOW WITH A POPULATION THAT HAS INCREASED NEARLY EIGHTFOLD IN THIS TIME, VIRTUALLY EVERY CHILD IN HONG KONG IS BEING TAUGHT ENGLISH,+ HE SAID.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW BRITISH COUNCIL CENTRE TODAY (TUESDAY):-

+DR. TAHOURDIN HAS JUST POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN IN HONG KONG SINCE 1948. THIS WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE BRITISH COUNCIL RECEIVED ITS CHARTER IN 1940. FEW OF THE 78 COUNTRIES WHERE THE BRITISH COUNCIL NOW OPERATES CAN HAVE HAD SUCH A LONG CONNECTION. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THIS BRITISH COUNCIL PRESENCE — THOSE WHO HAVE USED THE BRITISH COUNCIL LIBRARY= THOSE HAVE FURTHERED THEIR STUDIES IN BRITAIN WITH BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS= THOSE WHO HAVE BENEFITTED BY ADVICE FROM SPECIALISTS WHO THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAVE BROUGHT TO HONG KONG.

+THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAS MANY ROLES. ONE OF THESE IS GREAT EXPERTISE IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

+WITH THE RAPID ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS BECOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

+THIRTY YEARS AGO ENGLISH WAS IMPORTANT TO VERY FEW OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND A FEW PROFESSIONS. NOW WITH A POPULATION THAT HAS INCREASED NEARLY EIGHTFOLD IN THIS TIME, VIRTUALLY EVERY CHILD IN HONG KONG IS BEING TAUGHT ENGLISH.

+THIS PHENOMENON IS BEING REPEATED ALL OVER THE WORLD. THIS NEED FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING HAS PUT GREAT PRESSURE ON THE EDUCATION SYSTEM HERE AS ELSEWHERE.

+FOR THIS REASON I SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF WELL-RUN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING INSTITUTES WHICH GIVE SCHOOL LEAVERS A SECOND CHANCE TO MASTER THE LANGUAGE. ALREADY NEARLY 5,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE COMING HERE AFTER WORK TO IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY IN THE USE OF ENGLISH.

+THE FUTURE OF AN INSTITUTE SUCH AS THIS DEPENDS ON THE QUALITY OF THE TEACHING. OVER 50 EXPATRIATES ARE EMPLOYED TEACHING THESE GENERAL ENGLISH COURSES.

/+OTHER COURSES

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+OTHER COURSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP FOR SPECIAL GROUPS= AND THERE COULD BE AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE WITHIN SUCH AREAS AS COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, TOURISM, NURSING, OFTEN AS PART OF A BROADER STAFF TRAINING PROGRAMME. FOR INSTANCE, AS DR. TAHOURDIN MENTIONED, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY COMMISSIONED THE BRITISH COUNCIL TO RUN A SPECIAL INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE FOR A GROUP OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

+I CONGRATULATE THE BRITISH COUNCIL FOR SETTING UP THIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING INSTITUTE AND I SHOULD NOW LIKE TO DECLARE IT OPEN.+

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GOVERNOR CONTINUES VISIT TO DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL CONTINUE HIS VISIT TO NEWLY-CREATED DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6).

SIR MURRAY, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN AND TAI PO DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS AND HAVE GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON THEIR PLANS AND PROBLEMS.

SIR MURRAY WILL ARRIVE AT LEK YUEN COMMUNITY CENTRE IN SHA TIN AT 2.50 P.M. FOR A MEETING WITH THE SHA TIN BOARD MEMBERS. HE WILL LEAVE SHA TIN AT 3.50 P.M. FOR TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE WHERE HE WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO BOARD.

IT WILL BE THE SECOND OF A SERIES OF FAMILIARISATION VISITS BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS TO KEEP HIMSELF UP-TO-DATE WITH THE WORK OF THE BOARDS. THE FIRST VISIT - TO TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN - WAS MADE LATE LAST MONTH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT ON THURSDAY. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VAN, AM 2088, WILL LEAVE FROM BEHIND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE FOR SHA TIN AT 2 P.M.

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CHING MING FIRE WARNING
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PEOPLE ARE URGED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTION AGAINST HILL FIRES WHEN GOING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE OR THE CEMETERIES TO PAY HOMAGE TO THEIR ANCESTORS DURING CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

STATISTICS SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF 155 HILL FIRES OCCURRED ON THE LAST CHING MING FESTIVAL DAY COMPARED WITH THE DAILY AVERAGE OF 8.5 HILL FIRES DURING THE YEAR. THE FIRES DESTROYED 350,000 TREES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ONE REASON FOR THE OUTBREAK OF FIRE IN THE HILLS IS THAT MANY PEOPLE BURN JOSS-STICKS AND PAPER OFFERINGS AT THE GRAVEYARDS.

+WE APPEAL TO THEM TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS WHEN BURNING OFFERINGS.

+THEY ARE ADVISED TO CLEAR WEEDS SURROUNDING THE GRAVE BEFORE THEY START BURNING= TO BURN GRADUALLY AND IN SMALL QUANTITIES= TO WATCH OUT FOR SPARKS AND HOT ASHES= AND IF POSSIBLE TO USE A CONTAINER AS AN INCINERATOR TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF FIRE,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER REASON FOR THESE HILL FIRES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, IS THAT THE NUMBER OF PICNICKERS IN HONG KONG IS GROWING AND MANY OF THEM SPEND THEIR CHING MING HOLIDAY AT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND HOLD BARBECUE PARTIES THERE.

+BECAUSE OF CARELESSNESS, SOME FORGET TO PUT OUT THE FIRE BEFORE THEY LEAVE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN GAVE THE FOLLOWING RULES TO HELP MINIMISE FIRE RISKS:

- * BE CAREFUL WITH MATCHES AND CIGARETTE ENDS=
- * LIGHT BARBECUE FIRE ONLY IN A DESIGNATED BARBECUE PLACE=
- * DON'T LEAVE BURNING PAPER, CHARCOAL OR JOSS-STICKS UNATTENDED= AND
- * WHEN GOING OUT FOR PICNIC, IT IS PREFERABLE TO BRING PRE-COOKED FOOD INSTEAD OF BARBECUEING.

EXTRA FIRE GUARDS WILL BE ON DUTY DURING THE CHING MING PERIOD TO ENSURE THAT WORSHIPPERS AND VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE RESPECT THE COUNTRY PARKS CODE.

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TEXTILE QUOTA UTILISATION POSITION

THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE END-OF FEBRUARY 1978 FIGURES ON THE UTILISATION OF QUOTA IN RESPECT OF MARKETS TO WHICH HONG KONG'S TEXTILES EXPORTS ARE RESTRAINED.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE QUOTA POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND EEC, HONG KONG'S TWO MAJOR TEXTILE MARKETS, IS GIVEN BELOW.

USA

THE CURRENT 12-MONTH U.S. TEXTILE RESTRAINT PERIOD BEGAN ON JANUARY 1, 1978. QUOTA USED IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS AMOUNTED TO 101.93 MILLION EQUIVALENT SQ. YDS. OR 10.64 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL RESTRAINT LIMIT. FIGURES SHOWING THE QUANTITIES LICENSED FOR EXPORT AND PERCENTAGES OF UTILISATION ON A GROUP BASIS ARE SET OUT BELOW:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY LICENSED (IN MILLION EQUIVALENT SQ. YDS.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE UTILISATION AGAINST GROUP LIMITS</u>
I	YARNS AND FABRICS OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	23.13	8.83
II	APPAREL OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	69.51	11.69
III	MADE-UPS AND MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	7.26	12.29
IV	WOOL TEXTILES AND APPAREL	2.03	4.82

OF THE 24 CATEGORIES SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC LIMITS IN THE HONG KONG/U.S. TEXTILE AGREEMENT, THE RATE OF UTILISATION IN THREE OF THEM COULD BE DESCRIBED AS RELATIVELY HIGH. THESE THREE CATEGORIES WERE CATEGORY 331 (COTTON GLOVES), CATEGORY 347/348 (OUTER TROUSERS, SLACKS AND SHORTS) AND CATEGORY 649 (BRASSIERES, ETC.).

/ENDC

EEC

THE CURRENT 12-MONTH RESTRAINT PERIOD ALSO BEGAN ON JANUARY 1 1978. QUOTA UTILISATION POSITION ON A MEMBER STATE BASIS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS IS GIVEN BELOW:

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>QUANTITY LICENSED (IN MILLION EQUIVALENT KGS.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE UTILISATION</u>
UNITED KINGDOM	7.86	12.4
DENMARK	0.44	9.4
IRISH REPUBLIC	0.01	1.3
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	5.52	10.3
BENELUX	1.31	11.4
FRANCE	0.13	3.6
ITALY	0.16	5.1

OUT OF A TOTAL OF 288 CATEGORIES ON MEMBER STATE/CATEGORY BASIS, THE RATE OF UTILISATION IN 27 OF THEM WAS RELATIVELY HIGH. THESE POPULAR CATEGORIES INCLUDE CATEGORY 4 (KNITTED SHIRTS, ETC.), CATEGORY 6 (WOVEN TROUSERS AND MEN'S SHORTS), CATEGORY 7 (WOVEN/KNITTED BLOUSES), CATEGORY 8 (MEN'S WOVEN SHIRTS), CATEGORY 12 (KNITTED SOCKS AND STOCKINGS), CATEGORY 17 (MEN'S WOVEN JACKETS), CATEGORY 19/89 (COTTON HANDKERCHIEFS), CATEGORY 21 (PARKAS, ANORAKS AND WINDCHEATERS), CATEGORY 31 (BRASSIERES), CATEGORY 61 (NARROW WOVEN FABRICS), CATEGORY 72 (KNITTED SWIMWEAR), CATEGORY 74 (WOMEN'S KNITTED SUITS) AND CATEGORY 76 (WOVEN WORK GARMENTS).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COMMENDATION OF PRISONS DEPARTMENT STAFF
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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. TOM GARNER, WILL PRESENT 16 COMMENDATION CERTIFICATES TO MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY.

DETAILS OF THE COMMENDATIONS AND RECIPIENTS WILL BE RELEASED AT THE CEREMONY.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD BETWEEN LAI KING HILL ROAD AND THE CONTAINER PORT FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) TO 5.30 A.M. FRIDAY (APRIL 7) AND ON MIDNIGHT FRIDAY TO 5.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY (APRIL 8).

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE REMOVAL OF A TEMPORARY BRIDGE OVER KWAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR LAI KING ESTATE.

AS A RESULT, NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC TO TSUEN WAN WILL BE DIVERTED THROUGH CONTAINER PORT ROAD, HING FONG ROAD, KWAI FU ROAD AND BACK INTO KWAI CHUNG ROAD. SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC TO KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED THROUGH LAI KING HILL ROAD AND BACK INTO KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF SAN TSUEN ROAD ADJACENT TO LOTS 1248 AND 1249 IN D.D. 453 NORTH TSUEN WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) TO FACILITATE REMEDIAL WORKS ON A RETAINING WALL THERE.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN BOTH PLACES TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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