



FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1974.

N.T. MEDICAL SERVICES -- A MAJOR GOVERNMENT CONCERN
DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS A MAJOR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE POK OI HOSPITAL AUDITORIUM, SIR MURRAY SAID THE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO THE HOSPITAL WAS THUS CHANGED LAST YEAR FROM A DISCRETIONARY GRANT TO A COST PER BED BASIS.

SIR MURRAY ALSO PRAISED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF POK OI WHICH HAD GROWN FROM A SMALL RURAL CLINIC TO A MODERN HOSPITAL WITH 162 BEDS, AND WHICH HAD EARNED +A REPUTATION FOR PROVIDING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES TO THE NEEDY AT A MINIMUM CHARGE.+

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1919, THE POK OI HOSPITAL HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL RURAL CLINIC TO A MODERN HOSPITAL WITH 162 BEDS. THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT.

+THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT THUS THE POK OI HOSPITAL HAS BEEN SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1960. THIS SUBVENTION WAS CHANGED LAST YEAR FROM A DISCRETIONARY GRANT TO A COST PER BED BASIS, WHICH MEANS THAT A GREATER PROPORTION OF THE RUNNING COSTS OF THE HOSPITAL ARE NOW MET FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

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+DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, BOTH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE HOSPITAL. THESE INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLOOD BANK, THE PROVISION OF AN EMERGENCY HELICOPTER SERVICE, REGULAR VISITS BY SURGICAL TEAMS AND GYNAECOLOGY, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SPECIALISTS. IN ADDITION SOME OF YOUR NURSES HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR TRAINING SURGICAL CLINICOLOGY AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROVIDED A RADIOGRAPHER TO OPERATE YOUR NEWLY-PURCHASED X-RAY MACHINE.

+THE NORTH WING, COMPLETED LAST YEAR, HAS PROVIDED MODERN AND ENLARGED QUARTERS FOR THE NURSING AND MINOR STAFF. THE KITCHEN FACILITIES HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPROVED TO CATER TO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS, MANY OF WHOM REQUIRE SPECIALIZED DIETS. ALL THESE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE RESULTED IN THE HOSPITAL BEING USED MORE FULLY.

+YOUR HOSPITAL HAS A REPUTATION FOR PROVIDING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES TO THE NEEDY AT A MINIMUM CHARGE. IN ACHIEVING THIS LAUDABLE AIM, YOUR BOARDS OF DIRECTORS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT AND HAVE SACRIFICED A GREAT DEAL OF VALUABLE TIME AND MONEY. YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BENEFITED YUEN LONG, AND FOR THIS I RECORD MY THANKS AND THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY.+

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GOVERNOR LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF YUEN LONG

SPORTS CLUBHOUSE

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE.

IN A BRIEF ADDRESS, SIR MURRAY SAID HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITY AND DESCRIBED THE CLUBHOUSE AS BEING UNIQUE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IF NOT IN HONG KONG.

+THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR A COMMUNITY OF LESS THAN 200,000 PEOPLE, AND, ON BEHALF OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT, I THANK ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE.+

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO OFFICIATE AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF YOUR ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE. I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASSED TO BE INVITED TO THIS OCCASION SINCE I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

+OF YOUR ASSOCIATION'S NUMEROUS ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 14 YEARS, I AM PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR TWO MAJOR ANNUAL COMMITMENTS. THE FIRST IS THE YUEN LONG FOOTBALL TEAM, WHICH ROSE FROM THE THIRD DIVISION TO THE FIRST DIVISION IN THE THREE YEARS FROM 1959 AND HAS REMAINED THERE EVER SINCE. THE TEAM CAN TRULY BE CALLED A DISTRICT ONE, AND ONE OF WHICH YOU CAN ALL JUSTIFIABLY BE VERY PROUD.

/+THE SECOND

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+THE SECOND ACTIVITY WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION IS THE ANNUAL SUMER KNOCK-OUT FOOTBALL COMPETITION WHICH NOW FORMS PART OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME. LAST YEAR, 300 YOUNG MEN, 28 TEAMS PARTICIPATED. THE ORGANISATION OF SUCH A COMPETITION BY VOLUNTEERS IS NO MEAN TASK, AND I CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND MONEY TO THIS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY YOUR ASSOCIATION.

+THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CLUBHOUSE IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST PROJECT YOU HAVE EVER UNDERTAKEN. IT IS UNIQUE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IF NOT IN HONG KONG. THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR A COMMUNITY OF LESS THAN 200,000 PEOPLE, AND, ON BEHALF OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT, I THANK ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

+I SHOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO THANK MR. CHIU LUT-SAU, MRS. CHEUNG WONG SIU-CHING AND DR. CHIU PAT-YEOK FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF \$500,000 EACH= MR. CHAN PAK-KEUNG, YOUR HONORARY ARCHITECT, WHO HAS PROVIDED HIS SERVICES FREE OF ANY CHARGE= AND MR. WONG CHUNG-CHUEN, YOUR CHAIRMAN, WITHOUT WHOSE ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM THIS PROJECT WOULD NEVER HAVE GOT OFF THE GROUND.+

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FIFTH SMOKE CONTROL AREA FROM TOMORROW

THE COMBINED DISTRICT OF SHAM SHUI PO AND CHEUNG SHA WAN TOMORROW (APRIL 16) BECOMES HONG KONG'S FIFTH SMOKE CONTROL AREA. THE NEW CONTROL AREA WILL COVER THOUSANDS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FACTORIES AND HUNDREDS OF RESTAURANTS, ALL BURNING FUEL IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DENSELY-POPULATED DOMESTIC PREMISES.

THE AREA WAS GAZETTED ON FEBRUARY 15 TO ALLOW FUEL-USERS PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THEIR PLANT TO MAKE SURE IT DOES NOT CAUSE ILLEGAL AIR POLLUTION.

FROM TOMORROW, TEAMS OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT SMOKE INSPECTORS WILL BE OUT PATROLLING SHAM SHUI PO AND CHEUNG SHA WAN TO MAKE SURE FACTORIES AND RESTAURANTS COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER, MR. DAVID NEWBURY, SAID TODAY THAT THE LAW STRICTLY LIMITED THE AMOUNT OF DARK SMOKE WHICH COULD BE EMITTED INTO THE AIR FROM ANY PREMISES IN A SMOKE CONTROL AREA.

MR. NEWBURY,

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MR. NEWBURY, WHO HAS JUST SUCCEEDED MR. KEN HIGGINSON AS HEAD OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, SAID: +FINES CAN BE IMPOSED ON THE OPERATOR OF ANY FURNACE, OVEN OR CHIMNEY WHICH EMITS DARK SMOKE FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN SIX MINUTES IN ANY PERIOD OF FOUR HOURS, OR FOR THREE MINUTES CONTINUOUSLY AT ANY TIME.

+THE OPERATOR IS LIABLE TO A \$2,000 FINE, PLUS ANOTHER \$50 FOR EVERY 15 MINUTES DURING ANY PART OF WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.+

MR. NEWBURY POINTED OUT THAT FUEL-USERS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND CHEUNG SHA WAN HAD BEEN GIVEN PLENTY OF WARNING OF THE NEW CONTROLS AFFECTING THEM.

+SINCE THE GAZETTE NOTIFICATION TWO MONTHS AGO, WE HAVE SENT OUT NOTIFICATIONS REMINDING MAJOR FUEL USERS IN THE AREA THAT IN FUTURE THEY WILL HAVE TO OPERATE THEIR PLANT TO MUCH MORE EXACTING STANDARDS THAN IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

+AND EVEN THOUGH THE DISTRICT HAS ONLY JUST BEEN DECLARED A SMOKE CONTROL AREA, OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS LABOUR DEPARTMENT SMOKE INSPECTORS HAVE VISITED SOME 420 MAJOR FUEL USERS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND CHEUNG SHA WAN TO GIVE FREE ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION.

/+FACTORY

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+FACTORY AND RESTAURANT OWNERS SHOULD REALISE THAT REDUCING SMOKE POLLUTION IS GOOD BUSINESS, BECAUSE IT IS INEFFICIENT BURNING WHICH CAUSES DARK SMOKE.

+DARK SMOKE -- THE STUFF WHICH CAUSES POLLUTION-- ONLY OCCURS WHEN FUEL ISN'T BURNED EFFICIENTLY. BOILERS AND FURACES OPERATED EFFICIENTLY PRODUCE WHITE SMOKE, WHICH IS MAINLY WATER CONTENT AND DOESN'T POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE.

+FACTORY AND RESTAURANT OWNERS WHO SEEK OUR FREE ADVICE AND OPERATE THEIR PLANT EFFICIENTLY TO PRODUCE LIGHT SMOKE WILL BE AMAZED AT THE CUTS IN THEIR FUEL BILLS. AND WITH THE PRESENT WORLD SUPPLY SITUATION, IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT TO CONSERVE OUR PRECIOUS SUPPLIES OF FUEL OIL, +MR. NEWBURY SAID.

ANYONE WHO WANTS FREE TECHNICAL ADVICE ON HOW TO SAVE FUEL OIL AND COMPLY WITH THE LAW AT THE SAME TIME CAN RING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT AT 3-688924 OR 3-688954.

+WE'D FAR RATHER ADVISE THAN PROSECUTE, BUT IF FACTORY AND RESTAURANT OWNERS IGNORE OUR ADVICE AND CONTINUE TO POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE, THEN WE'LL TAKE THEM TO COURT, + SAID MR. NEWBURY.

FOUR OTHER AREAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN GAZETTED AS SMOKE CONTROL AREAS -- KWUN TONG IN 1960, SHA TIN IN 1962, NORTH POINT IN 1964 AND TSUEN WAN LAST YEAR.

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