



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1978

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A REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IS MOVING TOWARDS A BALANCED PROVISION OF THE BASIC, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND MORE SOPHISTICATION.

IN A REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID PLANS ARE IN HAND TO SET UP A CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS YEAR, WHICH WILL COORDINATE ALL HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT MORE LARGE-SCALE HEALTH CAMPAIGNS WILL BE LAUNCHED DURING 1978 TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH CARE.

AT THE SAME TIME, MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL MOVE TOWARDS SOPHISTICATION IN SPECIAL AREAS.

MORE SPECIALIST CLINICS WILL BE BUILT. A CORNEA TRANSPLANT UNIT AND A RENAL TRANSPLANT UNIT ARE TO BE SET UP AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WHICH WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TRANSPLANT OPERATIONS.

+TREMENDOUS STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST YEAR IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF A NUMBER OF WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS 'REVOLUTIONARY' MEASURES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME WAS PUT INTO FORCE IN APRIL BRINGING ENCOURAGING RESULTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS. ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME WAS TO PUT INTO THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF THE FACILITIES AND MANPOWER WHICH EXISTED IN EACH REGION AND SO TO PRODUCE A MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE.+

THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE HAS LARGELY BEEN ACHIEVED. PRESSURE ON THE TWO MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, THE QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH, HAS BEEN REDUCED WITH THEIR CAMP BEDS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED.

AS A RESULT OF THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME, THE BED OCCUPANCY RATES OF THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS SUCH AS POK OI, BUDDHIST, TUNG WAH AND YAN CHAI HOSPITALS HAVE NOW BEEN BROUGHT UP TO MORE THAN 80 PER CENT. A TOTAL OF 440 ADDITIONAL BEDS WERE BROUGHT INTO EFFECTIVE USE IN THE DISTRICT HOSPITALS WHICH CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME. IN ALL, THE BED OCCUPANCY RATES IN 14 DISTRICT AND NON-ACUTE HOSPITALS NOW AVERAGE 82.3 PER CENT.

+ANOTHER AREA WHERE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IS IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY NURSING,+ THE SPOKESMAN OBSERVED.

+FOLLOWING ENDORSEMENT BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE FROM APRIL 1, 1977.

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+THE ORGANISATIONS ALREADY SUPPLYING THIS SERVICE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A 75 PER CENT SUBVENTION. A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT AND SIX VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INVOLVED HAS BEEN FORMED TO ASSESS THE VALUE OF THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG'S OVERALL MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

+DATA ON PATIENT CARE, TYPES OF CASES AND THE IMPACT OF THE SERVICE ON IN-PATIENT FACILITIES ARE BEING COLLECTED AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MDAC FOR REVIEW,+ HE SAID.

DEMAND FOR OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT CLINICS CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

A FRESH APPROACH WAS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE OUT-PATIENT SERVICES. EXTRA OUT-PATIENT SESSIONS AT EIGHT CLINICS ARE NOW OPERATING ON WEEK-DAY EVENING AND AT SIX CLINICS ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

+THE ADDITIONAL SESSIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO RELIEVING PRESSURE AT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDED A MUCH NEEDED FACILITY FOR PEOPLE WHO, FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, PREFER TO ATTEND CLINICS IN THE EVENINGS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS SCHEME IS BEING KEPT UNDER REVIEW WITH A VIEW TO MAKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION IF NECESSARY.+

AT THE SAME TIME, HE ADDED, TO MEET DEVELOPING NEEDS, MORE CLINIC FACILITIES WERE MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE YEAR.

THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG POLYCLINIC, THE EAST KOWLOON POLYCLINIC AND THE ARRAN STREET ASSESSMENT CLINIC ARE NOW IN OPERATION.

THE FIRST TWO PROVIDE SPECIALIST AND GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES WHILE THE CLINIC AT ARRAN STREET IS THE FIRST MEDICAL ASSESSMENT CLINIC AND WILL COMPLEMENT THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

DURING THE YEAR, SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MAJOR PROJECTS -- THE 1,300-BED SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL AT LAI CHI KOK, AND THE MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DENTAL NURSES AND A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC.

ON THE HEALTH SIDE, THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO ENJOY A GOOD STATE OF HEALTH AS EVIDENCED BY THE LOW MORTALITY RATES AND THE CONTINUAL DECLINE IN THE INCIDENCE OF MANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MEASURES AND IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES, HONG KONG HAS AGAIN REMAINED FREE FROM POLIO, CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

/IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, ...

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, A NUMBER OF MAJOR PROJECTS AS OUTLINED IN THE 10-YEAR MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED. THE NEW DENTAL CENTRE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR DENTAL NURSES WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1978 AND THE SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 1980 WHEN THE SUPPLY OF TRAINED STAFF COMES ON STREAM.

THE 1,300 BED PSYCHIATRIC WING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1980. IN SHA TIN SITE FORMATION WORK FOR THE TEACHING HOSPITAL OF ABOUT 1,400 BEDS HAS COMMENCED WHILE AT TUEN MUN PREPARATORY WORK ON ANOTHER MAJOR HOSPITAL OF 1,200 BEDS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

THESE PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1982 AND 1983 RESPECTIVELY.

EIGHT NEW CLINICS AND POLYCLINICS WILL ALSO BE COMPLETED : SHATIN GENERAL CLINIC IN 1979, TUEN MUN POLYCLINIC STAGE I, NGAU TAU KOK AND LEI MUK SHU BY 1980, EAST KOWLOON BY 1981, SHA TIN POLYCLINIC BY 1982 AND HUNG HOM AND SHAM SHUI PO BY 1983.

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CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO RETIRE
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MR. J.K. SAUNDERS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT (TECHNICAL AND PLANNING) IS TO GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE SHORTLY AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. J.T. THORPE, CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER.

MR. SAUNDERS, WHO WAS RECRUITED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1958 AFTER SERVICE WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, STARTED HIS CAREER WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER II, AT A TIME WHEN AIR TRAVEL WAS FAR LESS IN DEMAND BY THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC. HONG KONG AT THAT TIME WAS ONLY SERVED BY 20 AIRLINES OPERATING REGULAR SERVICES BRINGING IN SOME 115,000 PASSENGERS AND DEPARTING WITH ABOUT 120,000 PASSENGERS ANNUALLY.

MR. SAUNDERS HAS WITNESSED THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE EXPANSION OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. TODAY, THERE ARE 26 AIRLINES OPERATING SCHEDULED SERVICES AT THE AIRPORT AND THE NUMBER OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING PASSENGERS IS APPROACHING THE 5,000,000 MARK - A GROWTH OF OVER 2,000 PER CENT.

DURING HIS LONG YEARS OF SERVICE, MR. SAUNDERS WAS REDESIGNATED AS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER I IN 1960 AND WAS APPOINTED AS CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER IN 1972. HE HAS HELD THE POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SINCE 1973.

TO MARK HIS WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT, MR. ROY DOWNING, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, WILL PRESENT A MEMENTO TO MR. SAUNDERS ON BEHALF OF HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT A FAREWELL DINNER TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

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NOTICE OF RATES PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS WERE TODAY REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978 MUST BE SETTLED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE SHOULD APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOR A COPY TO THE RATES SECTION OF TREASURY REVENUE BRANCH, ROOM 203, HANG CHONG BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 5, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.

+NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 P.M. ON JANUARY 31,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+AND UNLESS SO PAID IT MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE. A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO AMOUNTS, INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE, WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN MAKING PAYMENT, RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE +TOTAL AMOUNT NOW DUE+ BOX.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT +RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE.+

HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WOULD BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES, UNLESS IT IS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY-ORDER THROUGH THE POST TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUING. IF THEY ARE PAYING IN PERSON THEY ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO EARLY AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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BALLOT OF SITES FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR FAIRS IN NT
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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD CHINESE NEW YEAR FAIRS IN TSUEN WAN, YUEN LONG AND SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 7, 1978.

AN URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT A TOTAL OF 644 STALL SITES WILL BE ALLOCATED THROUGH OPEN BALLOT TO FLOWER GROWERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND TO TRADERS SELLING PERMISSABLE DRY COMMODITIES.

THE OPEN BALLOT WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 25.

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SEMINAR ON TEXTBOOKS
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A SEMINAR ON +THE CHOICE AND USE OF TEXTBOOKS+ WILL BE HELD FOR THE HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, KOWLOON, FROM 9.30 A.M. TO NOON ON JANUARY 14.

ORGANISED BY THE ENGLISH SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE SEMINAR AIMS TO OFFER SOME PRACTICAL HINTS TO HELP HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DECIDING ON THE CURRENT CHOICE OF TEXTBOOKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE REVISED PRIMARY ENGLISH SCHOOL SYLLABUS.

NEARLY 500 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

THE NEW TEXTBOOKS WRITTEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED SYLLABUS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY MAY 1978.

THE SEMINAR TO BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE, WILL CONSIST OF THREE SESSIONS. MRS. LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, WILL SPEAK ON +SOME PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE CHOICE OF TEXTBOOKS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS,+ WHILE MR. W.K. TONG, INSPECTOR (ENGLISH SECTION), WILL TALK ON +PRIMARY ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS.+ THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DISCUSSION.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH SECTION), ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRST TV INTER-SCHOOL DRAMA COMPETITION
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RTHK AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 P.M. AT BROADCASTING HOUSE, BROADCAST DRIVE, KOWLOON, TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE FINALS OF THE FIRST TELEVISION INTER-SCHOOL DRAMA COMPETITION.

THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. DONALD KERR, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. ARTHUR BROWN, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

TEN FINALISTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FROM OVER 100 SCHOOLS THAT TOOK PART IN THE PRELIMINARIES.

THE PERFORMANCES OF THE FINALISTS WILL BE BROADCAST ON VARIOUS TELEVISION STATIONS FROM SATURDAY (JANUARY 7), AND FIVE WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES IN THE DRAMA FIELD WILL BE ADJUDICATORS OF THE COMPETITION.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY +YOUTH CALL+ OF RTHK AND +COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB+ OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN WAN CHAI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) VEHICLES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT FROM STONE NULLAH LANE TO THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, IN WAN CHAI.

THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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