



SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1975

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

POLIO - HOW THE BATTLE IS FOUGHT IN HONG KONG

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YEARS OF INTENSIFIED IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAVE NOW RENDERED HONG KONG FREE FROM THE DREADED DISEASE OF POLIOMYELITIS, WHICH WAS ONCE A MAJOR KILLER DISEASE IN THIS TERRITORY.

FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS REPORTED, WHICH RANKED FOURTH IN 1962 IN THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN HONG KONG. THE LAST CASE OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1973.

POLIOMYELITIS IS AN ACUTE VIRAL DISEASE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF SEVERITY, FROM SUBCLINICAL INFECTION, NON-PARALYTIC ILLNESS TO A PARALYTIC CONDITION OR FATALISM. THE INVASION OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND SELECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF MOTOR CELLS RESULT IN FLACCID PARALYSIS, MOST COMMONLY OF LOWER EXTREMITIS.

THE DISEASE FIRST BECAME NOTIFIABLE IN HONG KONG IN JULY 1948. THE INCIDENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS REACHED ITS PEAK IN 1958 AND 1962 WITH 262 AND 363 CASES, REPRESENTING A NOTIFICATION RATE OF 9.2 AND 11 PER 100,000 POPULATION RESPECTIVELY.

THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM CHINA AND THE IMPROVED LIVING STANDARDS AFTER THE WAR HAD RENDERED THE ENVIRONMENT MORE SUITABLE FOR THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ORAL SABIN VACCINE TO HONG KONG IN 1963, THE CASES SHOWED A MARKED DECREASE. THE GRADUAL DECLINE HAD BEEN MAINTAINED SINCE 1966 AND TOWARDS THE END OF 1973 NO CASES WERE REPORTED.

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM POLIOMYELITIS EVER RECORDED WAS IN 1962 WHEN 52 PEOPLE DIED. THE MORTALITY RATE OF THE DISEASE VARIED WIDELY FROM NIL IN 1949 AND 1971 TO 60 PER CENT IN 1967 IN WHICH THREE OUT OF FIVE CASES DIED.

POLIOMYELITIS IS LARGELY A DISEASE OF CHILDREN. IN THE PAST, 93.1 PER CENT OF THE CASES OCCURRED IN CHILDREN UNDER 15. THE 1-4 AGE GROUP WAS MOST VULNERABLE, ACCOUNTING FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CASES.

ON THE OBSERVATIONS OVER THE PAST 24 YEARS FROM 1951 TO 1974, ABOUT 59 PER CENT OF THE CASES OCCURRED IN THE WARMER MONTHS BETWEEN MAY AND AUGUST.

THE FIRST MAJOR ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN 1963 AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH DR. SABIN, THE FOUNDER OF THE ORAL VACCINE. THE VACCINE WAS GIVEN IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES, CLINICS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, MOBILE TEAMS AND STATIC CENTRES. THE RESPONSE WAS EXCELLENT AND THIS BROUGHT THE NUMBER OF CASES FROM 363 IN 1962 DOWN TO 53 IN 1963. THESE CAMPAIGNS WERE INTENSIFIED YEAR AFTER YEAR.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1975

- 2 -

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH POLIOMYELITIS HAD NOW BEEN VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED, THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

HE SAID ALL PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES MUST CONTINUE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF IMMUNITY AMONG CHILDREN AGAINST THE DISEASE.

FOR A CHILD TO BE IMMUNISED THREE DOSES OF VACCINE ARE REQUIRED WITH AN EIGHT-WEEK INTERVAL BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND DOSES. A THIRD DOSE SHOULD BE TAKEN A YEAR LATER.

POLIO VACCINE IS AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CENTRES, INOCULATION POSTS AND CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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TICKETS FOR 8TH LOTTERY NOW ON SALE
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TICKETS FOR THE THIRD LAST GOVERNMENT LOTTERY - THE YEAR'S EIGHTH ONE - ARE NOW ON SALE AT \$2 EACH.

THEY ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 AT ALL ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TICKET SELLING BOOTHS AND THE HEAD AND BRANCH OFFICES OF MAJOR BANKS.

THE DRAW FOR WINNING NUMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE STUDIO OF REDIFFUSION (HONG KONG) LTD. AT BROADCAST DRIVE AT 9 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 13.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 265 PRIZES -- A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES TOGETHER WITH 50 SPECIAL AND 212 CONSOLATION PRIZES. THESE PRIZES MUST BE CLAIMED WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE NUMBERS ARE PUBLISHED, THAT IS, BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 1977.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MR. KAI-YIN CHAU, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE CITY HALL RESTAURANT AT 1 P.M. TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF PLANS TO PROMOTE THE EIGHTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY. YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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13

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1975

- 3 -

FIRE SERVICES CLARIFIES POLICY ON METAL GATES

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIDER APPLICATIONS TO FIT METAL GATES IN COMMON AREAS OF BUILDINGS PROVIDED THAT THEY COMPLY WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS, A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS DIVISION OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL LETTERS AND VISITORS SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON THE SUBJECT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE THREE BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- * THE GATE MUST BE OF THE SWING METAL TYPE
- * IT MUST OPEN IN THE DIRECTION OF EGRESS ONLY
- * NO LOCKING DEVICE OTHER THAN A TYPE, WHICH CAN BE OPERATED FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING WITHOUT THE USE OF A KEY, IS PERMITTED

+THERE IS NO QUESTION OF FIRE SERVICES APPROVAL BEING GIVEN TO THE INSTALLATION OF ANY TYPE OF GATE IN COMMON AREAS OR ON STAIRCASES AT INTERMEDIATE LEVELS+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, RESIDENTS OF A BUILDING MUST BE ABLE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT HINDRANCE TO STREET OR ROOF LEVEL.+

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF ALL COMMON AREAS AND STAIRCASES COULD BE MAINTAINED TOTALLY FREE OF OBSTRUCTION. +BUT THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF SECURITY IS RECOGNISED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT+

HE ADDED: +ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING INSTALLING A METAL GATE OR WHO MAY BE IN DOUBT WITH REGARD TO A GATE ALREADY FITTED SHOULD CONTACT THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU FOR ADVICE.+

AS FOR METAL GATES FITTED TO PROTECT PRIVATE RESIDENCES THESE MUST BE OF THE SLIDING OR FOLDING TYPE AND NOT OPEN OUT ACROSS PASSAGEWAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BUREAU WELCOMED COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO MIGHT CONSIDER THAT THE FITTING OF A METAL GATE HAD ENDANGERED THEIR SAFETY. +SUCH COMPLAINTS WILL BE PROMPTLY DEALT WITH,+ HE SAID.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Sunday, August 31, 1975

HOUSING AUTHORITY SPENDS \$350,000 ON NEW GARDEN

The Housing Authority has spent \$350,000 to improve the living environment at one of its older estates, Wang Tau Hom.

Under the improvement project an open area in the estate previously occupied by more than 280 hawkers and illegal structures is developed into a garden.

The area measuring about 33,600 sq. ft. consists of two basketball courts, two children's playgrounds and a large sitting-out area planted with a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs and flowers.

The estate, constructed more than 10 years ago, houses 66,000 people in 26 blocks. The new facility was designed and built, and will be maintained and controlled, by the Housing Authority.

The children's playgrounds have been equipped with swings, slides and a merry-go-round, all provided and installed by officers and men of the Composit Ordinance Depot of the British Army.

All genuine hawkers of long standing affected by the redevelopment have been resited elsewhere in the estate.

The garden, Wan Chui Yuen (Evergreen Garden), will be officially opened at 3 p.m. on Wednesday (September 3) by the Chairman of the Housing Authority Management Committee, Mr. R.H. Lobo.

Note to Editors: You are invited to send a photographer and/or reporter to cover this event.

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一九七五年八月卅一日
星期日

橫頭磡邨新公園

星期三正式啓用

橫頭磡邨現已擁有一個公園，以供居民休憩與遊玩之用。

房屋委員會為改善較舊屋邨的居住環境，動用三十五萬元將橫頭磡邨內一幅面積約三萬三千六百方呎的土地闢建為「環翠園」公園。

該幅曠地，以前會有二百多名小販蓋搭非法建築物營業，兩年前將會在該處長時間營業的小販遷往邨內的臨時小販市場後，利用該地興建公園。

新公園位於第十四座之旁，園中有兩個籃球場、兩個兒童遊樂場及一個面積廣大的休憩場所，遍植花草樹木。

兒童遊樂場內的遊玩設備如鞦韆、旋轉板與滑板等，由駐港英陸軍贈送。

橫頭磡邨於十一年前建成，共有第二型大廈二十六座，居民六萬六千餘人。

「環翠園」公園是由房屋委員會設計興建及管理。公園的正式啓用儀式，定於九月三日（星期三）下午三時由房屋委員會屬下管理小組委員會主席羅保議員主持。

編輯請注意：歡迎派員訪攝「環翠園」公園開幕典禮新聞。