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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1976

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SUBVENTING VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES
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GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN INCREASING STEADILY OVER THE YEARS. A TOTAL OF \$52 MILLION HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR 1976-77: MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE \$12.4 MILLION PROVIDED SIX YEARS AGO. AND, IN REAL TERMS, THIS IS NINE PER CENT MORE THAN THE AMOUNT ENVISAGED FOR 1976-77 IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PUBLISHED IN 1973.

SPENDING BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON WELFARE SERVICES, EXCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, HAS ALSO INCREASED AND IS FIVE PER CENT MORE, AGAIN IN REAL TERMS THAN WHAT WAS ENVISAGED FOR 1976-77 IN THE PLAN.

IF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES ARE INCLUDED, TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON WELFARE AND SUBVENTIONS THIS YEAR WILL BE NEARLY TWICE AS MUCH AS ENVISAGED IN THE PLAN.

THESE FIGURES THEN ILLUSTRATE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROVIDE WELFARE, MR. W.M. BRADLEY, ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SAID TODAY (MONDAY), AND, AT THE SAME TIME THEY UNDERSCORE THE NEED TO WORK WITHIN AGREED PLANS, AND WITH CONTROL.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT OF +GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION FOR VOLUNTARY WELFARE SERVICES+ AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROCEDURE FOR ARRIVING AT THE AMOUNT FOR SUBVENTIONS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1973 AND THAT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE DETERMINES THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO MAINTAIN EXISTING SERVICES, BASED ON THE TOTAL APPROVED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ADJUSTED TO ALLOW FOR INCREASES IN COSTS, AND FOR THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

FUNDS THEN VOTED ARE ALLOCATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE ON THE ADVICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S.W.A.C.).

HOWEVER, THE PROCEDURE WAS CHANGED FOR THIS YEAR AS WAS EXPLAINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH. INSTEAD, A PROVISIONAL LIMIT WAS SET BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY BASED ON THE FIVE YEAR FORECAST RETURNS SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENTS IN JUNE/JULY 1975, BUT INCLUDING ONLY THE AMOUNT NEEDED FOR UNAVOIDABLE COMMITMENTS ON EXISTING SERVICES. THIS PROCEDURE TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO EXERCISE ECONOMY FOR EXISTING SERVICES AND WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AS MUCH ROOM AS POSSIBLE FOR NEW SERVICES.

FOR RECURRENT SUBVENTIONS ON SOCIAL WELFARE, THE PROVISIONAL LIMIT WAS SET AT \$50 MILLION TO WHICH IT PROVED POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENTLY TO ADD A FURTHER \$2 MILLION FOR NEW SERVICES.

+THIS IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE FACT THAT THE SUBVENTION OF NEW SERVICES SHOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY CONSCIOUS DECISION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN TAKING ACCOUNT OF PRIORITIES,+ MR. BRADLEY POINTED OUT.

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RECURRENT GRANTS ARE DISCRETIONARY, HE CONTINUED, AND STRESSED THAT IT IS THE SERVICES, NOT THE AGENCIES, THAT ARE SUBVENTED, AND THOSE SERVICES THAT ARE SUBVENTED, MUST BE IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN.

AS FOR CONTROL, MR. BRADLEY SAID THAT ONCE A SERVICE COMES ONTO SUBVENTION, RULES START TO APPLY BECAUSE TAXPAYER'S MONEY IS INVOLVED. BUT AS THE SUBVENTIONS ARE DISCRETIONARY, THE RULES ARE LESS COMPREHENSIVE THAN FOR DEFICIENCY GRANTS.

+THE ESSENTIAL FEATURE IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF AGENCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED BUDGETS WITHIN ANY FINANCIAL YEAR.

+SO, IN BROAD TERMS, HAVING ARRIVED AT A SUBVENTION FIGURE FOR A PARTICULAR SERVICE, PROVIDED THE AGENCY CONCERNED GETS ON WITH PROVIDING THAT SERVICE IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY, THE FINANCE BRANCH DOES NOT INTERFERE.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT DETAILED BUDGET SUBMISSIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST IS SO THAT S.W.A.C. CAN REACH A VIEW ON THE WAY IN WHICH SUBVENTIBLE SERVICES ARE BEING PROVIDED, AND ON THE CAPABILITY OF AGENCIES TO EXPAND SERVICES OR PROVIDE NEW SERVICES WITHIN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR EXISTING AND NEW SERVICES.

THE SECOND REASON IS TO DETERMINE WHAT GRANT SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE NEXT YEAR AFTER REACHING A VIEW ON THE GENERAL EFFICIENCY OF AN AGENCY.

THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THIS IS THE DUTY TO ENSURE THAT ALLOCATIONS WHICH COME FROM PUBLIC FUNDS ARE BEING USED EFFICIENTLY AND TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE.

+WHAT WE IN THE FINANCE BRANCH WANT TO KNOW IS HOW MUCH IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR, IN THIS INSTANCE, SOCIAL WELFARE AGAINST DEFINED NEEDS. HENCE THE FIVE YEAR PLAN. AND THEN TO MEASURE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE YEAR BY YEAR IN ARRIVING AT REVISIONS OF THE PLAN AND THE PROVISION OF FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

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RATE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY ASTONISHING, SAYS AKERS-JONES

THE RATE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN HONG KONG HAS ASTONISHED MANY PEOPLE HERE AND ABROAD, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TONIGHT (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AT ITS ANNUAL DINNER, HE SAID: +LAST YEAR, WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT. THIS YEAR, NOT ONLY HAS UNEMPLOYMENT DROPPED, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES AND PARTICULARLY THE WORK OF OUR SKILFUL YOUNG WOMEN IS VERY MUCH IN DEMAND IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY.+

MR. AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAD ALSO RESPONDED WELL TO THE INCREASING DEMANDS BEING MADE UPON IT AND HONG KONG WAS FORTUNATE THAT BUILDING PRICES HAD SO FAR NOT INCREASED VERY GREATLY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THIS TIME LAST YEAR AND THE INCREASING VOLUME OF PUBLIC HOUSING BEING BUILT HAD ADDED ITS LOAD ON THE INDUSTRY.

REFERRING TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN HAD BECOME MUCH MORE OF A REALITY.

+PARTS OF THE NEW ROAD TO TUEN MUN ARE ALREADY OPEN AND THE VERY FACE OF TUEN MUN HAS CHANGED. GONE ARE THE SQUATTER SHACKS AT SAM SHING HUI. THE RECLAMATION OF THE BAY AT TUEN MUN HAS STARTED AND WITH IT WILL DISAPPEAR THAT LOVELY SCENE OF JUNKS CLUSTERING ALONG THE HORIZON THAT HAS BEEN THERE FOR CENTURIES,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID. +WE MUST SOMETIMES FEEL SAD AT THE LOSS OF THESE OLD FAMILIAR PLACES.+

SOMETIMES, HE ADDED, THEIR PASSING TOO HAD CAUSED DISTRESS AND DISTURBANCE TO MANY PEOPLE. THEY HAD BORNE THESE UPHEAVALS WITH GREAT FORBEARANCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL WHO LIVE IN HONG KONG, SO THAT WORK AND HOMES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS COULD BE PROVIDED, AND TO MAKE GOOD THE DEFICIENCIES IN HOUSING WHICH HONG KONG HAD HAD TO FACE FOR TOO LONG, AND TO MEET THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE EXPANDING POPULATION.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR THE DISTRICT FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEES HAD BEEN REVIVED.

+WITH THEIR HELP AND THE INCREASING STRENGTH AND VIGILANCE OF THE POLICE FORCE AND THE EFFORTS OF ALL THE COMMUNITY IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,+ HE ADDED, +THE RISE IN SERIOUS CRIME HAS BEEN CHECKED. THIS IS WHAT WE WANT TO SEE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IF WE GO ON ORGANISING AND THINKING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR BUILDINGS AND THEIR ENVIRONS, WE WILL PLUG THE LOOPHOLES IN WHICH THE CRIMINAL CAN OPERATE.+

WITH REGARD TO HEUNG YEE KUK, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE CHAIRMAN HAD INFORMED HIM THAT HE PROPOSED TO OVERHAUL ITS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION, +AND I LOOK FORWARD TO A FURTHER PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTIVE CO-OPERATION AND ADVICE DURING THE CURRENT TERM OF OFFICE OF THE KUK.+

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GOVERNOR TO HOLD TALKS IN U.K. NEXT MONTH

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR TWO WEEKS ON JULY 7.

SIR MURRAY WILL SPEND ONE WEEK IN SCOTLAND WITH HIS FAMILY AND ONE WEEK IN LONDON.

DURING HIS STAY IN LONDON SIR MURRAY WILL HOLD HIS NORMAL PERIODIC DISCUSSION WITH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, PROPOSALS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO COMBAT CRIME.

THE GOVERNOR WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON JULY 24TH.

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SHIPS IN PORT SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY MANNED

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) DREW THE ATTENTION OF SHIP MASTERS, OWNERS, AGENTS AND CHARTERERS TO A NOTICE ISSUED IN APRIL MENTIONING THE THREAT POSED TO OTHER VESSELS USING THE PORT BY VESSELS INADEQUATELY MANNED.

DETAILS OF THIS SUBJECT ARE ALSO CONTAINED IN THE +SHIPMASTERS GUIDE+ ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE MOVE FOLLOWS A CASE AT THE CENTRAL MAGISTRACY LAST WEEK IN WHICH A SHIP CAPTAIN WAS FINED \$4,500 FOR FAILING TO HAVE SUFFICIENT CREW ON BOARD HIS SHIP WHILE IN PORT. THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR SUCH AN OFFENCE IS \$5,000.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT BOTH THE NOTICE AND THE SHIPMASTERS GUIDE ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE ENTRY AND CLEARANCE OFFICE OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, 10TH FLOOR RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK.

THE OFFICE IS OPENED FROM 8.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M. AND FROM 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. ON SATURDAYS.

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MANUAL FOR JOB STANDARDS IN PLASTICS INDUSTRY
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THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL HAS PRODUCED A MANUAL OF JOB STANDARDS.

THE MANUAL, PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG ISLAND, AT \$7.00 A COPY.

IT SETS OUT THE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR 17 PRINCIPAL JOBS IN THE INDUSTRY -- THREE AT TECHNOLOGIST LEVEL, SEVEN AT TECHNICIAN LEVEL AND A FURTHER SEVEN AT CRAFT LEVEL.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF SKILL FOR PRINCIPAL JOBS IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY WILL PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR COURSES AT TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS AND TRAINING CENTRES AND HELP EMPLOYERS TO PLAN PROPER TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR APPRENTICES AS WELL AS TO ASSESS THE COMPETENCE OF THEIR WORKERS.

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DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT
CHARITABLE ORGANISATION
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI, WILL VISIT THE KOWLOON LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY AT 61 LUNG KONG ROAD, KOWLOON CITY, TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 6 P.M.

THE VISIT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

MR. CHUI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (KOWLOON CITY), MR. BILLY LAM- THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (KOWLOON CITY), MR. CHIU SHING-KIN- THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY, MR. LAU SAI-YAN, AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, MESSRS FOK SHU, LAW YUN-SUM AND LEE WEI-TO.

HE WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED BY MR. LAU ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY. THESE INCLUDE A HOME FOR THE AGED IN TAI PO WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 100 OLD PEOPLE AND A SECONDARY SCHOOL TO PROVIDE MORE SCHOOL PLACES.

NOTE TO EDITORS: MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. THE KOWLOON LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IS LOCATED AT 61 LUNG KONG ROAD, KOWLOON CITY.

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ANNUAL TOLO HARBOUR SWIM

THE NINTH ANNUAL CROSS-TOLO HARBOUR SWIMMING RACE WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JULY 11.

ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT SPORTS FEDERATION, THE RACE IS OVER A 2,000 METRES LONG COURSE FROM HA HANG TO YUEN CHAU TSAI.

WHEN THE RACE WAS FIRST HELD IN 1968, THERE WERE 80 ENTRANTS, BUT THE NUMBER WENT UP TO OVER 300 LAST YEAR.

MR. HUNG CHEUNG-LO, HONORARY SECRETARY OF TAI PO DISTRICT SPORTS FEDERATION, SAID HE WAS EXPECTING AN EVEN BIGGER FIELD THIS YEAR DUE TO THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF THE RACE.

THE RACE IS OPEN TO ENTRANTS AGED 12 OR OVER. EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD PAY A FEE OF \$3.00.

ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN TAKING PART CAN OBTAIN FORMS FROM THE FEDERATION'S OFFICES AT 56, KWONG FOOK ROAD, TAI PO MARKET.

THERE WILL BE SEPARATE PRIZES FOR THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SECTIONS. ALL SWIMMERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WITHIN 80 MINUTES WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE.

MR. CLIVE OXLEY, DISTRICT OFFICER TAI PO, WILL START THE RACE AND MRS. DAVID AKERS-JONES, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS.

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WATER CUT

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY AND IN NORTH POINT ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30).

THIS IS TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN KOWLOON CITY, THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, TUNG LUNG ROAD, TUNG FAT ROAD, TAI TUNG STREET AND TAI SHING STREET, INCLUDING TUNG TAU ESTATE BLOCK 6 TO 13, KAI MING LAU, AND LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE BLOCKS 15, 17, 26 AND 27.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE TEMPORARY WATER CUT IS BOUNDED BY BRAEMAR HILL ROAD, CLOUD VIEW ROAD AND YEE KING ROAD.

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