



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

| <u>CONTENTS</u> | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| CALL FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG TV STATIONS..... | 1 |
| OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT A MUST FOR WORKERS PROTECTION | 3 |
| SEVENTH CAREERS EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY..... | 4 |
| RADIO STATIONS READY FOR FREQUENCY CHANGE..... | 5 |
| OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT LEGCO RESUMED DEBATE TOMORROW. | 6 |
| DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO OFFICIATE AT SCHOOL SPEECH DAY..... | 6 |
| SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT STAFF RETIRING..... | 7 |
| WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO..... | 7 |

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 1 -

CALL FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG TV STATIONS

* * * * *

THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD HAS AGAIN CALLED FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG HONG KONG'S TELEVISION STATIONS AS A MEANS TO COMBAT SPIRALLING OPERATIONAL COSTS IN THE INDUSTRY.

THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY AND HIS STAFF WOULD BE HAPPY TO FOLLOW UP AND ASSIST IN ANY INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION FROM THE TELEVISION STATIONS, THE BOARD STATES IN ITS PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1977 TO JUNE 1978.

+WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH CO-OPERATION WOULD, INITIALLY AT LEAST, INVOLVE THE SUBORDINATION OF SOME OF THE STATIONS' INDIVIDUAL AIMS AND AMBITIONS TO A COMMON CAUSE, BUT AS THAT COMMON CAUSE COULD ULTIMATELY BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE VIEWING PUBLIC, WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH IS AT LEAST WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION - ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN NO DOUBT OF THE REAL AND FORMIDABLE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED,+ IT SAYS.

THE BOARD NOTES WITH CONCERN THAT, DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, SPIRALLING OPERATIONAL COSTS OF THE STATIONS HAD OUTSTRIPPED THE INCREASE IN TOTAL ADVERTISING REVENUES TO THE POINT WHERE OVERALL, THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY HAD FOUND ITSELF IN A NET LOSS SITUATION.

THE BOARD HAD HOPED THAT THE LICENCEES BY WORKING TOGETHER IN CERTAIN LONG-TERM ASPECTS OF THEIR PLANNING MIGHT MANAGE TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM.

+WE NOW REPORT WITH REGRET THAT NOT ONLY HAS THERE BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION, BUT THE GAP BETWEEN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE HAS CONTINUED TO WIDEN AT AN ALARMING RATE AND THE OVERALL FINANCIAL DEFICIT IN THE INDUSTRY IS NOW VERY LARGE INDEED.+

IT ADDS : +EVEN MORE DISTURBINGLY, WE CAN PRESENTLY SEE NO GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THERE WILL BE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.+

THE BOARD IS CONVINCED THAT LOCAL PRODUCTION COST FACTORS WERE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNTOWARD UPWARD SPIRALLING OF COSTS.

IT OBSERVES THAT TELEVISION IS CLEARLY AN EXPENSIVE OPERATION, AND IN HONG KONG THIS COSTLINESS IS AGGRAVATED BY THE FACT THAT, UNLIKE OTHER PLACES WHERE NETWORKS INCLUDE MANY STATIONS, ALL STATIONS IN HONG KONG MUST THEMSELVES COMPLETELY ABSORB THE TOTAL COST OF ANY PROGRAMMES THEY PRODUCE INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO SHARE THE BURDEN AMONGST AFFILIATED STATIONS.

/+THIS IS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 2 -

+THIS IS A FACTOR THAT WILL ALWAYS AFFECT TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS IN HONG KONG AS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OVERSEAS MARKETS CAN BE DEVELOPED FOR OUR LOCAL PRODUCTIONS TO ANY EXTENT WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE POSITION,+ IT SAYS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR, THE BOARD SAYS, WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE ELEMENT OF COMPETITION IN THE STAFFING OF THE STATIONS.

AS TELEVISION IS STILL A COMPARATIVELY YOUNG INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, THERE HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT TIME TO BUILD UP A RESERVOIR OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF TALENT ADEQUATE TO MEET AN EXPANDING SITUATION.

+THIS HAS PRODUCED A SITUATION IN WHICH STAFF COSTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS RELATED TO LOCAL PRODUCTION, HAVE DOUBLED AND EVEN TRIPLED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.+

OTHER LESSER CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS WERE COMPETITION FOR THE PURCHASE OF TRANSMISSION RIGHTS FOR MAJOR OVERSEAS EVENTS AND FOR IMPORTED MATERIAL.

THE REPORT ALSO UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE THE BOARD ATTACHES TO THE QUESTION OF THE SHARE-HOLDING AND MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE ENFRANCHISED TELEVISION BROADCASTING COMPANIES.

IT IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE, THE BOARD STATES, THAT THE LICENCES TO OPERATE TELEVISION STATIONS ARE AWARDED ONLY AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE CHARACTER AND GENERAL SUITABILITY OF THE ORGANISATIONS WHO SEEK THEM.

+WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE WITH THE (THEN) THREE EXISTING LICENCEES WHO HAD ALL BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE SATISFACTORILY AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUE OF THEIR LICENCES THAT THEY WERE COMPANIES WITH BROADLY-BASED LOCAL SHAREHOLDINGS, THAT THEY HAD ACCESS TO ACCEPTABLE SOURCES OF FINANCE, THAT THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATION OF INCOMPATIBLE OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS WITHIN THE COMPANIES AND THAT THEY WOULD BRING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANIES A DEMONSTRATED DEGREE OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.+

IT ADDS : +WE CONSIDER THAT IT IS OF EQUAL AND FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW SHOULD ENSURE THAT THESE SAME DESIRABLE CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WILL OBTAIN THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE AND THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY MAJOR DEGREE OF CONTROL OF THE COMPANIES TO PASS INTO THE HANDS OTHER THAN THOSE INTO WHICH IT WAS ENTRUSTED EXCEPT WITH PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT.+

----- 0 -----

13

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 3 -

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT A MUST FOR WORKERS PROTECTION
* * * * *

MANUAL WORKERS TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS WERE TODAY REMINDED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES BY ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THEIR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AND HAVE THE CONTRACT ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEY LEAVE HONG KONG.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER, MRS. SOO MOK SAU-HA, WARNED THAT A WORKER WHO FAILED TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WOULD FIND HIMSELF IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION IN CASE OF A DISPUTE.

+INDEED,+ SHE SAID, +VERBAL AGREEMENTS WHICH USUALLY MAY NOT ADEQUATELY COVER ALL ASPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT ARE ALWAYS A SUBJECT OF CONTENTION.

+MOREOVER, THE ABSENCE OF AN ATTESTED CONTRACT WOULD, TO A GREAT EXTENT, IMPEDE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHEN IT IS CALLED UPON TO INTERVENE IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE,+ MRS. SOO ADDED.

MRS. SOO EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO PRESENT OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR FOR ATTESTATION.

WRITTEN CONTRACTS DULY ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT ONLY CLEARLY DEFINE THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOTH THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, BUT ALSO ENSURE THE REASONABLENESS OF THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT.

+ALL CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT OF MANUAL WORKERS MUST INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DETAILS OF REMUNERATION, NATURE AND HOURS OF WORK, ENTITLEMENT TO REST DAYS AND PAID HOLIDAYS, MEDICAL TREATMENT, PAYMENT OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVISION FOR DEPENDANTS.

+AS A DOUBLE SAFEGUARD TO PROTECT THE WORKERS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD, PRIOR TO ATTESTING A CONTRACT, REQUIRE AN EMPLOYER TO NOMINATE A PERSON PERMANENTLY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO FURNISH A BOND OR SIGN A GUARANTEE FOR THE GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT BY THE EMPLOYER,+ MRS. SOO ADDED.

MRS. SOO ADVISED WORKERS WHO WISHED TO TAKE UP OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT TO CONSULT THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE PROPER COURSE TO FOLLOW AT 99 QUEENSWAY, OR TELEPHONE 5-281035.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 4 -

SEVENTH CAREERS EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITION, WHICH HAS BEEN DRAWING THOUSANDS OF YOUNG VISITORS FOR THE PAST YEARS, OPENS AGAIN AT THE KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS IN HUNG HOM ON SATURDAY, (NOVEMBER 18).

CAREERS '79, THE SEVENTH TO BE STAGED, WILL BE OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AND WILL BE ON DAILY BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 6.30 P.M. UNTIL NOVEMBER 27.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION WAS TO PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION TO HELP THEM CHOOSE A CAREER BEST SUITED TO THEIR TALENT, ABILITY, INTEREST AND TEMPERAMENT.

PARENTS, MR. HENDERSON ADDED, MAY ALSO FIND THE INFORMATION USEFUL IN GUIDING THEIR CHILDREN TO A WISE CHOICE OF A CAREER.

THERE WILL BE 25 ORGANISATIONS FROM COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT TAKING PART THIS YEAR. A STAND ON +EDUCATION FOR YOUR CAREERS+ WILL BE PUT UP BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, EACH EXHIBITOR WILL DISPLAY IN HIS STAND INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF WORK, CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS TO EACH POST, TRAINING FACILITIES AND PROSPECTS IN THE FIELD. TO HELP VISITORS RETAIN WHAT THEY SAW AT THE EXHIBITION, ALL THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS HAVE PREPARED PAMPHLETS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

PAST RECORDS SHOW THAT THE EXHIBITION IS BOTH LIVELY AND COLOURFUL BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS YEAR EXHIBITORS WILL BE PUTTING ON AN EVEN BETTER DISPLAY WITH MORE AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT. THERE WILL ALSO BE STAFF PRESENT AT EACH STAND TO GIVE ON THE SPOT EXPLANATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

ONE NOTABLE FEATURE IN THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITION WILL BE THE EMPHASIS ON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN EACH OCCUPATION OR CAREER.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SEVENTH CAREERS EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT THE HUNG HOM RAIL TERMINUS ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 18) AT 9.30 A.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/5

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 5 -

RADIO STATIONS READY FOR FREQUENCY CHANGE
* * * * *

THE TWO LOCAL RADIO STATIONS ARE ALL SET FOR THE CHANGE OF AM (MEDIUM WAVE) BROADCASTING FREQUENCIES WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 23.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHANGE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND BOTH RTHK AND COMMERCIAL RADIO ARE MAKING REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE NEW FREQUENCIES THAT THEY WILL BE OPERATING ON.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY TODAY REITERATED THAT THE CHANGE WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF AM RECEPTION BY MINIMISING RADIO INTERFERENCE IN ASIA AND EUROPE IS MINIMAL TO HONG KONG.

+THE POSITIONS OF THE NEW FREQUENCIES ARE QUITE CLOSE TO THE EXISTING ONES ON AN AM RADIO RECEIVER'S TUNING DIAL AND THE FIVE CHANNELS ARE IN THE SAME ORDER AS AT PRESENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE NEW FREQUENCIES OF THE FIVE AM CHANNELS ARE RTHK-3 (ENGLISH) 567 KHZ, COMMERCIAL RADIO-2 (CHINESE) 675 KHZ, RTHK-1 (CHINESE) 783 KHZ, COMMERCIAL RADIO-1 (CHINESE) 864 KHZ AND COMMERCIAL RADIO (ENGLISH) 1044 KHZ.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE PLAN TO REALLOCATE AM BROADCASTING FREQUENCIES WAS WORKED OUT AT THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION'S CONFERENCE IN 1975 WITH THE AID OF COMPUTERS WHICH ALSO TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS PUT UP BY EACH MEMBER STATE IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

THE REALLOCATION WAS NECESSITATED BY THE LIMITATION ON THE EXTENT OF THE MEDIUM WAVE BAND AND THE HUGE NUMBER OF RADIO STATIONS OPERATING WITHIN IT WHICH IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF INTERFERENCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PLAN AGREED UPON AT THE ITU CONFERENCE WOULD MINIMISE INTERFERENCE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RECEPTION IF EVERY MEMBER STATE REPRESENTED IN IT SWITCHES TO THE NEW ALLOCATED FREQUENCIES ON NOVEMBER 23.

HE SAID THERE ARE AT LEAST 40 STATIONS THROUGHOUT ASIA AND EUROPE USING THE SAME FREQUENCIES AS OURS, AND IF SOME OF THEM DID NOT CHANGE ON THAT DATE WE MIGHT GET SOME INTERFERENCE.

BUT HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS COULD BE IRONED OUT IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 6 -

OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT LEGCO RESUMED DEBATE TOMORROW
* * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS RESUMES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WHEN SEVEN OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL REPLY TO THE POINTS RAISED BY THEIR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES TWO WEEKS AGO.

LEADING OFF THE RESUMED DEBATE WILL BE THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, FOLLOWED BY THE HON. DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT= THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS= THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING= THE HON. LEWIS DAVIS, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY= THE HON. EDWARD NICHOLS, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES= AND THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 16), SEVEN OTHER OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SPEAK. THEY ARE DR. THE HON. THONG KAH-LEONG, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES= THE HON. THOMAS LEE, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE= THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR= THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS= THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS, SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE= THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE HON. JACK CATER, CHIEF SECRETARY.

DURING THE SITTING ON WEDNESDAY, FOUR BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL. THEY ARE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1978, LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 AND PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

ON THE SAME DAY, FIVE BILLS WILL ENTER THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE READ FOR THE THIRD TIME. THESE BILLS ARE THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL BILL 1978, HONG KONG AIRPORT (CONTROL OF OBSTRUCTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (EXEMPTION) BILL 1978.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO OFFICIATE AT SCHOOL SPEECH DAY
* * * * *

MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE JOINT SPEECH DAY OF TUNG WAH SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 11 A.M. AT THE CITY HALL.

ON THE SAME DAY, MR. T.L. LAM, ACTING SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOLS AND SERVICES), WILL OFFICIATE AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE HOI PA STREET GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL AT HOI PA STREET IN TSUEN WAN AT 3 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENTS.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/7

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1978

- 7 -

SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT STAFF RETIRING

* * * * *

FIVE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL RETIRE SHORTLY FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE AFTER A TOTAL OF 140 YEARS' SERVICE.

THE RETIRING MEMBERS ARE: MR. LAU MING, SENIOR SUPPLIES OFFICER- MR. LAM CHUNG-PAK, SUPPLIES OFFICER, MR. NG WING-SHEUNG, ASSISTANT SUPPLIES OFFICER- MR. LAU KAM, ARTISAN I AND MR. CHAN BIU-SHEUNG, LABOURER.

THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. F.J. YOUNG, WILL PRESENT THEM WITH RETIREMENT GIFTS ON BEHALF OF THEIR COLLEAGUES AT A CEREMONY ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 16) AT 4 P.M. IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CANTEEN, TOP FLOOR, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE RETIREMENT GIFT PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT 4 P.M. ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 16) AT THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT CANTEEN, TOP FLOOR, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

----- 0 -----

WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO

* * * * *

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE STOPPED FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 16) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, POPLAR STREET, BOUNDARY STREET AND WONG CHUK STREET INCLUDING APLIU STREET, YU CHAU STREET, KI LUNG STREET, TAI NAM STREET AND MAPLE STREET.

----- 0 -----