



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1976

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SOLUTION TO POLLUTION PROBLEMS DEPENDS ON PUBLIC ATTITUDE

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THE SOLUTION TO MANY POLLUTION AND CONSERVATION PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE CAUSED BY URBAN LIVING, DEPENDS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, HE SAID THAT COMPREHENSIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS WERE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VOLUNTARY EFFORT ON THE PART OF EACH OF HONG KONG'S CITIZENS TO MINIMISE POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

+IF WE ARE TO HAVE A GOOD ENVIRONMENT, IT HAS TO BE PAID FOR -- IN MANY CASES THIS HAS TO BE IN THE FORM OF HARD CASH, BUT IT CAN OFTEN BE IN THE FORM OF EFFORT, OR RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+WITH VERY CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS ON HONG KONG'S RESOURCES (AND ALREADY THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS GETTING A BIGGER SHARE THAN MOST PEOPLE REALISE), THEN WE NEED TO EXPLOIT PAYMENT BY WAY OF EFFORT OR RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC.

+AND FOR THIS REASON, IT IS VITAL THAT THE PUBLIC BECOMES AWARE OF THE NEED FOR A GOOD ENVIRONMENT AND OF THE EFFECTS OF NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT POLLUTION= NOT ONLY THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS BUT ALSO THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE ENDURED BY FUTURE GENERATIONS.+

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FOR MANY YEARS RECOGNISED THE NEED TO TAKE THE THREAT OF POLLUTION SERIOUSLY.

HE DISCLOSED THAT VERY CONSIDERABLE FUNDS WERE BEING SPENT ON TRADITIONAL POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES SUCH AS REFUSE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND HARBOUR CLEANSING AND, MORE RECENTLY ATTENTION HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO AIR POLLUTION, AGRICULTURAL WASTE AND NOISE ABATEMENT BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM).

+THIS COMMITTEE WITH ITS SEPARATE SUB-COMMITTEES FOR AIR, WATER AND LAND, AND NOISE POLLUTION, HAS PRODUCED MANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON A VERY WIDE VARIETY OF MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND AS FAR AS RESOURCES WILL PERMIT, THOSE HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

IN DECEMBER 1974, HE SAID, CONSULTANTS WERE ENGAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE STATE OF HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT, TO ADVISE ON THE ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION AND TO ADVISE ON IMPROVING GOVERNMENT'S POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES.

ONE OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE CONSULTANTS WAS FOR A FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF POLLUTION CONTROLS FOR HONG KONG, HE SAID.

/+RIGID

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+RIGID ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, WHILE THEORETICALLY EASIER TO ENFORCE, HAVE IN PRACTICE PROVED UNWORKABLE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CAPACITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO ABSORB POLLUTION AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AND THE ABILITY OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES TO IMPROVE EFFLUENT QUALITY,+ HE STATED.

+HENCE A RIGID STANDARD COULD BE UNNECESSARILY SEVERE FOR ONE AREA WHILE BEING INSUFFICIENT TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN ANOTHER, AND MAY PERMIT ONE INDUSTRY TO POLLUTE MORE THAN IT NEEDS WHILE PUTTING ANOTHER INDUSTRY OUT OF BUSINESS.

+THE PROPOSED FLEXIBLE SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE GOVERNMENT WITH THE POWERS TO IMPOSE CONTROLS WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED AND JUSTIFIED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS BUT ALSO ECONOMIC REALITIES AND THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT WENT ON TO GIVE DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE PLANS TO COMBAT POLLUTION.

THEY INCLUDE :-

- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO COMPOSTING PLANTS AND A HIGH DENSITY BALING PLANT TO DEAL WITH SOLID WASTE,
- * THE EXTENSION OF THE HARBOUR CLEANSING SERVICE AND
- * THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SHALLOW DRAUGHT VESSEL TO TACKLE OIL POLLUTION IN INSHORE WATERS.

ON CONSERVATION OF COUNTRYSIDE, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID : +BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS, IT IS CLEAR THAT WE NEED MUCH OF THE AVAILABLE FLAT LAND FOR HOUSING AND LIVING.+

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE REST MUST BE PRESERVED FOR RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT OF THE MASSES.

TO BEGIN WITH, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID, COUNTRY PARKS WERE NOT BEING ESTABLISHED IN THE MORE ACCESSIBLE AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT THE AIM WAS TO BRING, EVENTUALLY, THE WHOLE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE UNDER SOME FORM OF MANAGEMENT SO THAT THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE MASSES OF PEOPLE VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE COULD BE ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH.

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NEW SHING MUN BRIDGE TAKING SHAPE
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ENGINEERS HAVE COMPLETED ALL MAJOR FOUNDATION WORKS ON THE NEW SHING MUN RIVER RAILWAY BRIDGE AT SHA TIN AND HALF OF THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMED.

MR. VAL MANSFIELD, PROJECT ENGINEER, SAID TODAY THAT DESPITE BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS THE P.W.D.'S RAILWAY DIVISION WAS PUSHING AHEAD WITH THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AND STILL HOPED TO HAVE THE NEW BRIDGE READY FOR USE BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER.

+AS SOON AS WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMIT, THE REMAINING CONNECTING SPANS WILL BE PUT IN POSITION TO COMPLETE THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF THE BRIDGE,+ HE SAID.

+RIGHT AFTER THAT WE'LL BEGIN LAYING THE SURFACE OF THE BRIDGE AND ONCE THIS IS DONE WE'LL START RECONNECTING THE RAIL TRACKS TO ENABLE NORMAL TRAIN SERVICES TO RESUME,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MANSFIELD SAID THAT SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD BRIDGE DURING THE RECENT RAINSTORMS, P.W.D. WORKERS HAD BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK UNDER A CRASH BUILDING PROGRAMME TO RESTORE THE SEVERED RAIL LINK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

+WE HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT UNFORTUNATE IN THAT BAD WEATHER HAS HAMPERED PROGRESS SOMEWHAT, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON IRIS, BUT WE'RE HOPING THAT THE WEATHER WILL IMPROVE SO THAT WE CAN FINISH MOST OF THE WORK IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS FROM NOW TO GET THE TRAIN SERVICE BACK TO NORMAL,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MANSFIELD EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO THE URGENT NATURE OF THE WORK MOST OF THE NECESSARY BUILDING MATERIALS HAD HAD TO BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE CONCRETE BEAMS WHICH FORM PART OF THE BRIDGE SPAN.

+AS THERE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT CONCRETE BEAMS READILY AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID, +PART OF THE BRIDGE SPAN WILL BE IN STEEL -- AN UNUSUAL BUT TECHNICALLY SOUND FEATURE.+

MR. MANSFIELD SAID THE NEW BRIDGE WOULD BE A TWO-SPAN STRUCTURE CARRYING ONE RAIL LINE.

+ONCE WE HAVE COMPLETED THE BRIDGE AND RESTORED THE NORMAL TRAIN SERVICE, TENDERS WILL BE CALLED FOR A SECOND BRIDGE THAT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR DOUBLE TRACKING THE RAILWAY,+ HE SAID.

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THREE MP'S DUE THIS WEEKEND

TWO LABOUR MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, MR. RAYMOND FLETCHER AND MR. PETER HARDY, WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 2) FOR A ONE-WEEK VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THEY WILL BE JOINED BY THE FORMER LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, MR. JEREMY THORPE, WHO WILL ARRIVE HERE ON SUNDAY NIGHT. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE.

DURING THEIR STAY, THE MPS WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AS WELL AS THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THEY WILL ALSO MEET MEMBERS OF A MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE, VISIT THE OI MAN ESTATE, A NIGHT MARKET, A FLATTED FACTORY AND TSUEN WAN WHERE THEY WILL SEE THE DEVELOPMENT THERE.

MR. FLETCHER, WHO IS ALSO A JOURNALIST, HOPES TO GET A BROAD PICTURE OF THE WAY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG ON WHICH HE IS LIKELY TO BASE AN ARTICLE FOR THE TIMES NEWSPAPER.

MR. HARDY, A TEACHER BY PROFESSION, HAS SPECIAL INTERESTS WHICH INCLUDE ENVIRONMENT, WILD LIFE AND ENERGY. HE HOPES TO GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE REASONS FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND ALSO TO SEE HOW URBAN PROBLEMS ARE TACKLED.

MR. THORPE, WHO IS A BARRISTER OF THE INNER TEMPLE, HAS PREVIOUSLY PAID A PRIVATE VISIT TO HONG KONG.

THE TWO LABOUR MPS WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR HOME ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 9, WHILE MR. AND MRS. THORPE WILL DEPART THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE MP'S ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 8 (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. FLETCHER AND MR. HARDY WILL ARRIVE AT KAI TAK AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 2 BY FLIGHT BA 888 (E.T.A. 7.30 P.M.). MR. AND MRS. THORPE WILL ARRIVE ON OCTOBER 3 BY FLIGHT CX 170 (E.T.A. 8.55 P.M.).

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SLIGHT DROP IN EXPORTS LAST MONTH

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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR AUGUST WAS \$2,965 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF \$32 MILLION OR 1.1 PER CENT, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH JULY.

ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS DROPPED BY 5.3 PER CENT OR \$194 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS WENT DOWN BY 8.5 PER CENT OR \$64 MILLION COMPARED WITH JULY.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE TO AUGUST 1976 SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 46.4 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 29.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 21.3 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1975.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1975 TO AUGUST 1976 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE, OF 40.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 32.2 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 23.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TRADE TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>JUNE-AUGUST 1976</u>	<u>JUNE-AUGUST 1975</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,792	6,003	+ 2,788	+ 46.4
IMPORTS	10,866	8,373	+ 2,493	+ 29.8
RE-EXPORTS	2,168	1,787	+ 380	+ 21.3
<u>LATEST MONTH</u>	<u>AUGUST 1976</u>	<u>JULY 1976</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,965 (81.3%)	2,996 (80.0%)	- 32	- 1.1
IMPORTS	3,509	3,704	- 194	- 5.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	683 (18.7%)	747 (20.0%)	- 64	- 8.5

/JAN. - AUG.

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<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE</u>	JAN. - AUG. 1976	JAN. - AUG. 1975	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	20,761 (78.5%)	13,930 (75.8%)	+ 6,831	+ 49.0
IMPORTS	27,820	20,557	+ 7,262	+ 35.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5,690 (21.5%)	4,454 (24.2%)	+ 1,236	+ 27.8
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	SEPT. 1975 TO AUG. 1976	SEPT. 1974 TO AUG. 1975	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	29,690	21,078	+ 8,611	+ 40.9
IMPORTS	40,734	30,806	+ 9,928	+ 32.2
RE-EXPORTS	8,210	6,666	+ 1,544	+ 23.2

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE TYTAM RESERVOIR AREA WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 29).

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE HOUSE NO. 9-46 TYTAM ROAD INCLUDING TURTLE COVE VILLAS.

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ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS
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WHILE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG IS EXPANDING SOON INTO THE SECONDARY LEVEL WITH TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS - BOTH ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL - FLOURISHING, SCHOOLS MUST PLAY A VERY LARGE PART IN PREPARING CHILDREN FOR THEIR ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. BASIL BOARD SAID THIS AFTERNOON.

ADDRESSING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE WORLD-WIDE SEA TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE CITY HALL, MR. BOARD SAID: +IT IS NOT JUST THAT THEY MUST LEARN BASIC SKILLS, SO THAT THEY MAY BE EMPLOYABLE, AND LEARN TO LEARN, SO THAT THEY MAY IMPROVE THEMSELVES AND MASTER THE MACHINES THAT ARE REPLACING PHYSICAL LABOUR= THEY MUST ALSO LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE HUMAN WORLD, SO THAT THEY MAY LEAD LIVES SATISFYING TO THEMSELVES AND TO SOCIETY.+

THIS WAS NOT NEW. +WHAT IS NEW IS THAT EVERYONE, THE WHOLE POPULATION, NOW NEEDS TO DEVELOP BOTH THESE SKILLS AND THIS MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY,+ MR. BOARD SAID. +THE DAYS OF A HANDFUL OF 'BORN' TEACHERS EDUCATING A MINORITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE LONG PAST.+

GIVING AN EXAMPLE, HE MENTIONED THE CHANGE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE HUMAN EFFORT INVOLVED IN MOVING GOODS BY SEA AT PRESENT COMPARED WITH A GENERATION AGO.

SINCE CHANGE HAD SO ACCELERATED IN THE LAST FEW DECADES, TODAY'S GRADUATES COULD OBVIOUSLY NOT EXPECT TO EARN THEIR LIVING IN 20 YEARS' TIME WITH THE SKILLS THEY NOW POSSESSED.

+EVER-ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY AND EVER-INCREASING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PER EMPLOYEE WILL DEMAND NOT ONLY THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO LEARN MORE AND MORE, BUT ALSO QUALITIES OF CHARACTER THAT WILL JUSTIFY THE TREMENDOUS TRUST PLACED IN SUCH MEN AS YOU,+ MR. BOARD TOLD THE GRADUATES.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT +SOCIETY NEEDS TO IMPART TO VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF TEACHERS, AND NOT JUST A GIFTED, DEDICATED FEW, A NEW PROFESSIONALISM WHICH WILL MEAN FAR MORE THAN A CERTAIN LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE PLUS COMPETENCE IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES, THOUGH EVEN TO ACHIEVE THAT IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY MAY REQUIRE CONSIDERABLY MORE TIME AND RESOURCES THAN ARE DEVOTED TO IT AT PRESENT.

+BUT THE CHALLENGE GOES DEEPER THAN THAT, AND TO MEET IT WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN EXPERT ADVICE= WE NEED ALSO THE DEEP AND INFORMED INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS AND OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, THE FUTURE OF WHICH, IN THE LONG RUN, IS AT STAKE.+

MR. BOARD CONGRATULATED THE GRADUATES FOR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THEIR COURSES AND THE NEW STUDENTS FOR NOT ONLY HAVING GAINED PLACES IN THE TRAINING SCHOOL BUT ALSO FOR HAVING ADOPTED A CLEAR, SPECIFIC AIM IN LIFE.

HE PRAISED THE SCHOOL FOR IMPARTING AND DEMANDING HIGH STANDARDS.

MRS. BOARD DISTRIBUTED CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES TO THE GRADUATES.