



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1978

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PUBLIC URGED TO COMMENT ON SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEME	1
MORE PASSENGER PROCESSING FACILITIES AT AIRPORT	2
LEGCO MEETING TOMORROW	3
LADY MACLEHOSE TOURS SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK	4
DSW ON INSPECTION VISIT	4
MARINE ASSISTANT RETIRING	5
PLB RESTRICTED ZONES IN KWAI CHUNG	5

.....

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1978

- 1 -

PUBLIC URGED TO COMMENT ON THE
SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME

* * * * *

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, TODAY URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT GREEN PAPER AND IN PARTICULAR THE SICKNESS, INJURY AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT THE PROPOSED SCHEME WAS A SEMI-VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTORY ONE AND IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO INTRODUCE IT IF IT WOULD ATTRACT ONLY LIMITED SUPPORT.

+IT IS THEREFORE UP TO THE PUBLIC OF HONG KONG TO RESPOND AND GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON WHETHER THEY WANT PROGRESS TO CONTINUE ON NON-CONTRIBUTORY LINES, WITH BENEFITS PAID FROM GENERAL REVENUE, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ECONOMY'S ABILITY TO AFFORD THEM, OR WHETHER THEY WOULD WELCOME A MOVE TOWARDS CONTRIBUTING SOCIAL INSURANCE.+

EXPLAINING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT SUCH A SCHEME WOULD FIT A SITUATION WHERE THE RATE OF BENEFITS WERE RELATED TO THE LEVEL OF INCOME EARNED AND CONTRIBUTIONS PAID BY THE BENEFICIARY AND TO THE LENGTH OF TIME HE HAD BEEN IN THE SCHEME.

+SUCH A SCHEME IS ALSO USEFUL IN ORDER TO SPREAD THE RISKS AMONG THE CONTRIBUTORS AND TO REWARD THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PRUDENT ENOUGH TO JOIN IN WHILE LEAVING OUT IN THE COLD THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO JOIN ANY VOLUNTARY SCHEME OF SOCIAL INSURANCE.

+A CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME ALSO ENSURES THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE SET ASIDE AND INVESTED TODAY TO PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR TOMORROW.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, INFLATION COULD ERODE THE REAL VALUE OF THE MONEY COLLECTED AND INVESTED TO MEET FUTURE COMMITMENTS AND, A CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME ENTAILS PAYING HIGH OFFICE RENTS AND SALARIES TO THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD ADMINISTER IT.

MR. SWEETMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE INVESTMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTORS' FUNDS AND SAID THAT THERE COULD BE ANOTHER MORE DIRECT WAY OF INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE AND DEVELOPING OUR ECONOMY TO ENABLE US EVENTUALLY TO AFFORD, OUT OF FUTURE TAXATION BASED ON A GREATER GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, SICKNESS BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES FOR OUR AGING WORK FORCE.

+WE WOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO PAY FOR OUR SOCIAL SECURITY OUT OF GENERAL REVENUE, GENERATED BY DIRECT DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT= INDEED THIS IS THE WAY THAT HONG KONG ALREADY FINANCES MOST OF ITS DEVELOPMENT IN ALL FIELDS.+

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO OPERATE SUCH A SCHEME, MR. SWEETMAN EXPLAINED: +IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE FUTURE BENEFITS AT A REALISTIC LEVEL, TYING THEM TO FUTURE CURRENT EARNINGS, WHILE ACCEPTING COMPARATIVELY LOW RATES OF CONTRIBUTION IN EARLIER YEARS, IT WOULD BE ASKING TOO MUCH OF ANY PRIVATE INSURER AND WE NEED THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERWRITE THESE FUTURE CONTINGENCIES, PARTICULARLY TO PROTECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION.+

ON PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SCHEME RECEIVED SO FAR, MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT A MOST CONVINCING VOLUME OF COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS HAD GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE VIEW THAT FOR SUCCESS IT MUST BE COMPULSORY, BUT HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS A POINT WHICH HAS YET TO BE ARGUED OUT AND DECIDED UPON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE PASSENGER PROCESSING FACILITIES AT AIRPORT * * * * *

ADDITIONAL PASSENGER PROCESSING FACILITIES WILL BE BROUGHT INTO USE AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WITH THE COMPLETION OF ANOTHER STAGE OF THE AIRPORT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THESE WILL INCLUDE LARGER AREAS AT THE AIRSIDE AT BOTH THE DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL LEVELS, ADDITIONAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL COUNTERS AND A SECOND BAGGAGE RECLAIM DISTRIBUTOR.

AT DEPARTURE LEVEL, THE WAITING AREA HAS BEEN EXTENDED, INCORPORATING A LARGER AND MORE SPACIOUS CONCESSION AND SEATING AREA.

MORE DEPARTURE PASSPORT CONTROL DESKS HAVE ALSO BEEN PROVIDED TO IMPROVE PASSENGER FLOW DURING PEAK PERIODS.

THE NEW AIRSIDE EXTENSION WILL FULLY COMPLEMENT THE LANDSIDE EXTENSION AREA WHICH WAS OPENED LAST AUGUST TO PROVIDE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS AT THE AIRPORT.

AT ARRIVAL LEVEL, THE SECOND BAGGAGE RECLAIM DISTRIBUTOR, SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH BECAME OPERATIONAL LAST SEPTEMBER, HAS AN AUTOMATIC FEED AND WILL SHORTEN THE TIME ARRIVING PASSENGERS HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR BAGGAGE.

MORE IMMIGRATION DESKS HAVE ALSO BEEN PROVIDED TO ENABLE SPEEDIER ARRIVAL CLEARANCE.

AS FOR TRANSIT PASSENGERS AN ESCALATOR WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WISHING TO USE THE NEW DEPARTURE LOUNGE EXTENSION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LEGCO MEETING

* * * *

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 19 QUESTIONS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE HON. DR. HARRY FANG WILL RAISE TWO QUESTIONS ON GOVERNMENT PLANS TO MAKE THE OVERHEAD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES IN CENTRAL FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED PERSONS AND TO EXPAND THE FACILITY OF PROVIDING DROPPED KERBS FOR THE USE OF THE DISABLED AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

ON CHILD CARE CENTRES, THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT WILL ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A SPECIFIC CODE OF AID FOR SUBVENTED CHILD-CARE CENTRES SO THAT THEIR STAFF WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR PROMOTION PROSPECT.

THE HON. JAMES WU WILL URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEED UP THE OPENING OF MORE NURSERIES SO AS TO ALLOW MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN TO WORK IN INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF A +CHRONIC SHORTAGE+ OF FEMALE LABOUR.

ON TEXTILES, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE EEC/HONG KONG TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

THERE WILL BE TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION. THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG WILL ASK ABOUT APTITUDE TEST, WHILE THE HON. KWAN KO SIU-WAH WILL TOUCH ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN.

SOME OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS CONCERN THE SETTING UP OF A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, RATES ON PRIVATELY EXTENDED AND ALTERED BUILDINGS, THE BENEFITS TO BRITAIN OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL METRO SYSTEM AND THE EXPANSION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE.

SIX BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE APPROPRIATION (1976-77) BILL 1978, THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (MARKETING)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON THREE BILLS. THEY ARE THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE MERCANTILE BANK NOTE ISSUE (REPEAL) BILL 1978, AND THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1978

- 4 -

LADY MACLEHOSE TOURS SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK
* * * *

LADY MACLEHOSE TODAY MADE AN AIR-AND-LAND TOUR OF THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (COUNTRY PARKS), MR. MARTIN LEWIS, LADY MACLEHOSE FIRST TOOK A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE 4,500 HECTARES COUNTRY PARK. SHE LATER LANDED AT PAK TAM AU IN SAI KUNG PENINSULA AND BEGAN A ROAD TOUR FROM LONG HARBOUR TO HOI HA, A SMALL COVER OFF TOLO CHANNEL WHERE A NEW MANAGEMENT CENTRE IS BEING BUILT.

LADY MACLEHOSE ALSO WENT TO PAK TAM CHUNG TO INSPECT ANOTHER NEW MANAGEMENT CENTRE NEAR THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR.

TO CONCLUDE HER MORNING TOUR, LADY MACLEHOSE VISITED THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S MANAGED AREA AT NAI CHUNG IN THE TOLO CHANNEL.

DURING THE VISIT, MR. LEWIS TOLD LADY MACLEHOSE THAT MORE THAN HALF OF HONG KONG'S LAND MASS IS PLANNED TO BE DESIGNATED AS COUNTRY PARK RESERVES DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

MR. LEWIS SAID UNDER THE \$71 MILLION PROGRAMME APPROVED LAST MONTH FOR THE RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE, 19 AREAS ARE PLANNED TO BE DESIGNATED AS COUNTRY PARKS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE ON INSPECTION VISIT
* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SPENT THIS MORNING VISITING THREE WELL-KNOWN VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES TO KEEP HIMSELF INFORMED OF THEIR OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. EVELYN DOE, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION AND MR. HENRY AU, HEAD OF THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION, THE DIRECTOR CALLED AT THE FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY AND THE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION IN WAN CHAI, AND THE PO LEUNG KUK IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

AT THE FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, MR. LEE WAS BRIEFED BY THE SOCIETY'S DIRECTOR, MRS. CHOY POON SIU-FUN, ON ITS FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, COUNSELLING AND HOME HELP SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS IN FIVE CENTRES.

LATER MR. LEE WENT TO THE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION WHERE HE WAS MET BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR. F.K. HU, WHO GAVE HIM A RUNDOWN OF THE ASSOCIATION'S PLANS. MR. LEE WAS ALSO CONDUCTED ON A TOUR OF THE ASSOCIATION'S RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

THE DIRECTOR CONCLUDED HIS VISIT BY CALLING AT PO LEUNG KUK WHERE HE WAS MET BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR. CHENG ENG-KUAN.

DURING HIS HOUR-LONG STAY AT THE KUK, MR. LEE INSPECTED THE VARIOUS SERVICES IT PROVIDES FOR THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN. THE DIRECTOR SHOWED PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE BABY WARD, THE NURSERY, AND THE SHELTER WORKSHOP FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1978

- 5 -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MARINE ASSISTANT RETIRING
* * * *

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR. W.D. LEIGHTON, WILL PRESENT ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 26) A FAREWELL GIFT ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO MARINE ASSISTANT I, MR. AU WING-HUI, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER ALMOST 19 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

MR. AU JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN 1959 AND WAS PROMOTED TO THE PRESENT RANK IN 1970. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS SIX CHILDREN.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ROOM 105 AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF MARINE DEPARTMENT, 102 CONNAUGHT ROAD, CENTRAL AT 4 P.M. ON THURSDAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLB RESTRICTED ZONES IN KWAI CHUNG
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. SATURDAY (JANUARY 28), SEVERAL SECTIONS OF ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE DESIGNATED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT DAILY TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

THE AREAS ARE:

- * HING FONG ROAD BETWEEN KWAI FOO ROAD AND KWAI FUK ROAD-
- * KWAI FUK ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HING FONG ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 190 FEET WEST-
- * KWAI FUK ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HING FONG ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 190 FEET EAST- AND
- * THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE TSING YI BRIDGE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KWAI FUK ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 190 FEET SOUTH.

PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING ON THESE SECTIONS OF ROADS FOR PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREAS TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -