



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1975

## WORK OF E.D.'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE NOT JUST ROUTINE SCHOOL VISITS

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THE TERM "INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS" IMMEDIATELY CREATES AN IMAGE IN BOTH THE TEACHERS' AND THE PUPILS' MINDS OF A STERN-FACED MAN SITTING AT THE BACK OF THE CLASSROOM, WATCHING EVERY MOVEMENT IN THE ROOM AND JOTTING DOWN WHATEVER FAULTS HE FINDS IN THE TEACHING METHOD IN HIS THICK FILE.

TO MOST PEOPLE, THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ROUTINE INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS. THESE VISITS, HOWEVER, ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE WORK OF THE INSPECTORATE.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE IMPRESSION OF A FAULT-FINDING INSPECTOR WAS NOW A THING OF THE PAST AND AN INSPECTOR WAS MORE OF AN ADVISOR TO TEACHERS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE INSPECTORATE IS AN ADVISORY BODY WHICH "CATERS FOR QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, AND THE MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING STANDARDS."

IT IS HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS). CURRENTLY, IT HAS A STRENGTH OF 130 WITH 10 PRINCIPAL INSPECTORS IN CHARGE OF DIFFERENT SPECIALIST SECTIONS WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC SUBJECTS.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE INSPECTORATE IS TO SERVE THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH CURRICULUM PLANNING, RENEWAL AND EVALUATION.

THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

BESIDES ITS WORK WITH THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE MAINTAINS CERTAIN SPECIALIST SECTIONS WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS AND LEVELS.

THE KINDERGARTEN SECTION, FOR EXAMPLE, GIVES ADVICE ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND RENDERS ASSISTANCE TO KINDERGARTENS. ITS MAIN FUNCTION IS TO ENSURE A CONGENIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THAT TEACHERS DO NOT OVER-EMPHASISE LEARNING AT SUCH AN EARLY STAGE.

THE SECTION, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION, ALSO ORGANISES IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TEACHING CENTRES RELATED TO INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC SUBJECTS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF +KEEPING TEACHERS ADREAST OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THESE SUBJECTS+.

LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRES FOR BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE HELP TEACHERS ACQUIRE MODERN TECHNIQUES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING. THEY HAVE A LARGE SUPPLY OF TAPED MATERIALS AND PROVIDE A FREE DUBBING SERVICE TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

SHORT REFRESHER COURSES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS ARE ORGANISED DURING SCHOOL TERMS AND PARTICULARLY DURING SUMMER VACATIONS FOR TEACHERS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE FAMILIAR WITH CURRENT IDEAS AND PRACTICES.

THE INSPECTORATE ALSO PRODUCES SUBJECT BULLETINS WHICH ACT AS A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND METHODS AND ANSWER SPECIFIC QUERIES RAISED BY TEACHERS. THESE BULLETINS ARE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

ONE OF THE TEACHING PRACTICES STRONGLY ADVOCATED BY THE INSPECTORATE IS THE +GUIDED DISCOVERY METHOD+ WHICH ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS AND THE USE OF VISUAL AIDS SUCH AS FILMS, PHOTOS AND STUDY KITS IN THE CLASSROOM.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED BY THIS METHOD TO INQUIRE AND FIND OUT THE +WHATS+ AND +WHYS+ OF A SUBJECT RATHER THAN MERELY ABSORBING LECTURES BY TEACHERS.

WITH THE INSPECTORATE WORKING HARD TOWARDS THESE OBJECTIVES, THE SCENE OF STUDENTS PASSIVELY TAKING DICTATION OF THE TEACHERS' NOTES MAY SOON BECOME SOMETHING OF THE PAST.

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#### CITY TOUR FOR BOAT CHILDREN

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A GROUP OF 200 BOYS AND GIRLS BETWEEN EIGHT AND 15 YEARS OF AGE WHO LIVE ON BOATS IN THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, WILL BE TAKEN ON A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ON SUNDAY (MARCH 30). THEY WILL BE ESCORTED BY 50 VOLUNTEERS.

THE OUTING IS ORGANISED BY THE YAUMATEI KAIFONG ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOATING PEOPLE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE FOR YAU MA TEI AS A TREAT FOR CHILDREN'S DAY WHICH FALLS ON APRIL 4.

STARTING OFF AT 9.45 A.M. FROM THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATION PREMISES IN SAIGON STREET THE CHILDREN WILL FIRST BE TAKEN TO THE OCEAN TERMINAL FOLLOWED BY A TRIP THROUGH THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TO THE PEAK, THEN TO THE BOTANICAL GARDENS, THE CITY HALL, THE SUNG HONG TOI MEMORIAL GARDEN AND THE AIRPORT.

THEY WILL LUNCH AT THE MAN LOK RESTAURANT IN WU KWONG STREET, HUNG HOM, DURING WHICH THERE WILL ALSO BE A LUCKY DRAW.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE START OF THE TOUR.

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BIG DROP IN HILL FIRES THIS WINTER

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THE ABNORMALLY WET AND HUMID WEATHER HAS, TO A LARGE EXTENT, DETERMINED THE SHARP FALL IN THE NUMBER OF HILL FIRES THIS WINTER, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HILL FIRES FROM SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR TO MID-MARCH THIS YEAR IS 241 AS COMPARED WITH 1,050 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 1973/74.

THE AREA AFFECTED THIS WINTER MEASURED SOME 240 ACRES, REPRESENTING ONLY SEVEN PER CENT OF THE 3,390 ACRES DAMAGED BY HILL FIRES LAST WINTER.

ALTOGETHER 25,000 TREES WERE DESTROYED AS COMPARED WITH 1,400,000 IN THE LAST HILL FIRE PERIOD.

IN FINANCIAL TERMS, ABOUT \$75,000 WERE LOST THIS WINTER, WITHOUT TAKING TIME AND MANPOWER INTO ACCOUNT. THE NATURAL SCENERY AND WILD LIFE ARE ALSO SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

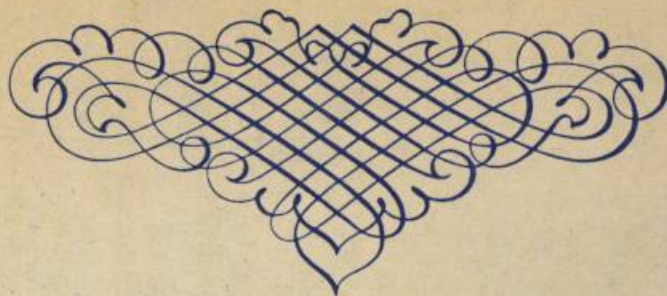
THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS MAINTAINING 13 FIRE PROTECTION POSTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE HILL FIRE SEASON. EACH OF THESE POST IS MANNED 24 HOURS A DAY BY 12 FIRE FIGHTERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE COMMON CAUSES OF HILL FIRES ARE THE CARELESS DISPOSAL OF LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES, THE MISHANDLING OF BARBECUE FIRES AND LIGHTED JOSS-STICKS AND CANDLES.

HE URGED PICNICKERS AND THOSE WHO VISIT THEIR FAMILY GRAVES TO TAKE EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT HILL FIRES DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL.

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# ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Friday, March 28, 1975

## DESPATCH BOXES FOLLOW QUEEN TO HONG KONG

Timetable Must Allow Provision For Reading Of State Papers

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For at least three of the four days the Queen will be in Hong Kong in May, a portion of her time will have to be spent on reading important documents of state.

No matter where the Queen happens to be, in London or in abroad, she receives without fail a flow of telegrams, memoranda and letters in red despatch boxes.

Each day, the Queen's mail contains an average of 120 letters dealing with state business.

The boxes arrive containing Foreign and Commonwealth Office telegrams, along with any instructions or replies sent out. There is a daily telegram reporting what has happened in the House of Commons, memoranda prepared by ministers for the Cabinet to consider, and minutes of all Cabinet meetings.

Normally in Britain, the Queen spends between two and three hours a day reading and digesting such papers in order to be thoroughly informed on domestic and international affairs. While travelling, she has the additional task of studying daily briefs relating to the territory she is visiting, the personalities she will meet, and the institutions she will visit.

/The fact .....

The fact that the Queen has completely adjusted herself to this routine is reflected by her easy grasp of organised ceremonials everywhere as they unfold. She is never at a loss for words, instead frequently flatteringly aware of details which could be expected to escape the notice of such a busy visitor.

The Queen has travelled more than any British monarch in the past. She has been to distant corners of British and Commonwealth territories not one of her predecessors would have thought possible before the jet age.

Of this special feature of the Queen's reign, Elizabeth Longford, biographer of royalty, once wrote: "A sense of duty is a Mountbatten-Windsor family trait, and this has been inherited by the Queen, the Duke, and their children. So high are the Queen's standards that new ways of satisfying them have had to be found.

"Extensive travel by air has created a 'flying monarchy' which can operate here, there, and everywhere.

"The Queen will not pause in her official reading and signing even for one day. A week's rest? But that would mean the tide of red boxes flowing past her.

"All the Queen allows herself is an occasional 'breather' in mountains or woodland. Balmoral, a private Royal residence, is one change, where she walks and picnics.

"Sandringham is another, where the Queen keeps her horses and stud, and has a farm.

"But the red boxes go, too."