



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1981

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1981

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WARNING ON HUNG MING BALLOON FIRE DANGER
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A WARNING TO THE PUBLIC NOT TO TAKE HUNG MING BALLOONS INTO COUNTRY PARKS WAS ISSUED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO ISSUE THE WARNING NOW AT AUTUMN WITH MUCH DRIER WEATHER NOT TOO FAR AWAY.

HE SAID ANYONE FOUND IN A COUNTRY PARK WITH A HUNG MING BALLOON FACED A \$5 000 FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

HE DESCRIBED THE BALLOONS AS A +SCOURGE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE+, AND SAID THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF FIRES, MANY IN AREAS FIREFIGHTERS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REACH.

MANY BALLOONS WERE RELEASED FOR FUN, MOSTLY AT AUTUMN WHEN THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AT ITS DRIEST. AS A RESULT LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE SUFFERED SERIOUS DAMAGE.

HE SAID IN VIEW OF THE GROWING POPULARITY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR RECREATION THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS VIEW OF THOSE STARTING COUNTRYSIDE FIRES.

THERE WOULD BE STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUNG MING BALLOONS FROM BEING TAKEN INTO COUNTRY PARK AREAS.

FINES AND IMPRISONMENT COULD ALSO BE IMPOSED IN CASES WHERE THE BALLOONS CAUSED DAMAGE OUTSIDE COUNTRY PARKS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS MOST AT RISK DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO AND FOLLOWING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 6 THIS YEAR.

+ON THE FESTIVAL DAY ITSELF IT IS USUAL FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF FIRES TO OCCUR,+ HE SAID. +APART FROM HUNG MING BALLOONS, CARELESSLY DISCARDED CIGARETTE ENDS AND LIGHTED MATCHES ALSO TAKE A TOLL.+

HE APPEALED FOR CO-OPERATION FROM ALL WHO VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE FROM NOW ON TO PREVENT FIRES AND TO TAKE SPECIAL CARE DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, RECENTLY WROTE TO THE CHAIRMEN OF ALL 27 RURAL COMMITTEES SEEKING THEIR SUPPORT IN BATTLING THE FIRE MENACE.

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HOUSE SPEAKER VISITS KWUN TONG

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THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, THE RT HON GEORGE THOMAS, SPENT THIS (MONDAY) MORNING VISITING KWUN TONG.

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR DONALD LORD, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR ALBERT LAM, MR THOMAS FIRST WENT TO KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR DAVID TSUI.

WHILE TOURING THE TOWN CENTRE, MR THOMAS WAS BRIEFED ON SUCH MATTERS AS TRAFFIC CONGESTION, HAWKER AND STREET OBSTRUCTION AND THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND MARKETING FACILITIES.

FROM THE TOWN CENTRE, HE WENT TO SAU MAU PING, AND FROM A VANTAGE POINT ON THE ROOFTOP OF AN ESTATE BUILDING, HAD AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE ON LOK TSUEN SQUATTER AREA, WHERE SOME 4 000 PEOPLE LOST THEIR HOMES IN A FIRE LAST MONTH.

MR THOMAS ALSO VISITED A LOW-RENT DOMESTIC UNIT AT SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

HE CONCLUDED HIS TOUR WITH A VISIT TO THE PO LEUNG KUK'S SAU MAU PING PRE-SCHOOL TRAINING CENTRE, WHICH PROVIDES DAY CARE FOR ABOUT 20 MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

MR THOMAS IS DUE TO LEAVE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON FOR DELHI.

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ADDITIONAL TRAIN SERVICE FOR SHA TIN LASER SHOWS

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL RUN ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR THE OUTDOOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL LASER SHOWS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 13 AND 14 AT SHA TIN RACECOURSE.

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR SERVICES A SPECIAL TRAIN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION AT 7.07 PM ON THESE THREE EVENINGS AND ARRIVE AT THE RACECOURSE STATION AT 7.30 PM, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER THE SHOWS, TWO SPECIAL TRAINS WILL TAKE PEOPLE BACK TO KOWLOON, LEAVING THE RACECOURSE STATION AT 10.50 PM AND 11.04 PM, AND ARRIVING AT KOWLOON STATION AT 11.17 PM AND 11.29 PM.

RETURN TICKETS FOR THESE SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICES WERE ON SALE AT \$4 FROM TODAY (MONDAY) UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11.

APART FROM THESE SPECIAL TRAINS, FIVE UP TRAINS AND SIX DOWN TRAINS WILL STOP AT THE RACECOURSE STATION BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT, IN THE COURSE OF REGULAR SERVICE.

TIME TABLES FOR THE REGULAR SCHEDULE HAVE BEEN POSTED AT ALL STATIONS.

PEOPLE INTENDING TO USE THESE TRAINS SHOULD PURCHASE THEIR RETURN TICKETS AT KOWLOON STATION, AS NO BOOKINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RACECOURSE STATION.

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REPETITION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS PERMITTED BUT NOT ENCOURAGED
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ALLOWS UP TO SIX PER CENT REPETITION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS BUT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT REPETITION SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED. MR LI YUET-TING, ACTING SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS, MR LI SAID THERE WAS A MAJOR PUBLIC MISCONCEPTION THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DID NOT ALLOW REPETITION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THAT PROMOTION WAS AUTOMATIC.

+THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOES ALLOW REPETITION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRESENT PERMITTED REPETITION RATE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS SIX PER CENT, AND A PUPIL IS ALLOWED TO REPEAT ONCE DURING PRIMARY ONE TO FIVE, BUT IS NOT ALLOWED TO REPEAT PRIMARY SIX.

+WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, EXACTLY WHAT THE ACTUAL REPETITION RATE IS, BECAUSE MANY PUPILS CHANGE SCHOOLS BUT REMAIN IN THE SAME CLASS,+ MR LI SAID.

THE SECOND MAJOR MISCONCEPTION ABOUT REPETITION IS THAT IT IS THE ANSWER TO ALL PROBLEMS.

+UNNECESSARY REPETITION HAS MANY DISADVANTAGES,+ MR LI SAID.

+IT MAKES THE REPEATER FEEL BORED, IT MAY CREATE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX ON HIS PART, AND IT MAKES HIM LOSE A WHOLE YEAR EVEN THOUGH HIS PROBLEM MAY BE A RELATIVELY MINOR ONE.+

MANY EDUCATIONISTS BELIEVE THAT REPETITION SHOULD BE RESORTED TO ONLY IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS WHEN A CHILD HAS BEEN ILL FOR A GREATER PART OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

+THUS, WHILE THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOES ALLOW UP TO SIX PER CENT REPETITION AT PRESENT, IT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT REPETITION SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED AND THAT CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES SHOULD BE HELPED IN OTHER WAYS,+ MR LI SAID.

IT IS HOPED THAT SCHOOLS WOULD ADOPT REMEDIAL TEACHING IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, AND THAT WITH AN IMPROVED STAFFING RATIO, TEACHERS WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE GREATER INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION TO PUPILS WHO WERE WEAK IN CERTAIN SUBJECTS.

MR LI EMPHASISED THAT THE PLAN TO REDUCE REPETITION WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION AS SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK.

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AS A RESULT OF THE PERMITTED REPETITION RATE, AT LEAST 30 PER CENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE TAKING SEVEN YEARS TO COMPLETE THE SIX-YEAR COURSE.

+DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE SO WEAK ACADEMICALLY? SHOULD WE NOT DO OUR BEST TO SAVE THEM ONE PRECIOUS YEAR OF THEIR LIVES WHICH NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN BUY BACK?+ MR LI ASKED.

+THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WHICH WE SHOULD ALL BEAR IN MIND. I WOULD URGE ALL SCHOOLS TO ADOPT REMEDIAL TEACHING AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY,+ HE SAID.

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TUEN MUN WORKERS TO GET PUBLIC HOUSING

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ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PUBLIC HOUSING WILL BE GIVEN TO TUEN MUN FACTORY WORKERS WHO ARE AT PRESENT NOT LIVING IN THE NEW TOWN AND WHO HAVE TO TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES TO AND FROM WORK EACH DAY.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED AT A MEETING OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUB-COMMITTEE OF TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE DECISION IS MAINLY THE OUTCOME OF A RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE AT ITS PREVIOUS MEETING, DURING WHICH THE PROBLEM OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPORTATION OF WORKERS WAS DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO LOCAL WORKERS, WHO ARE EITHER RESIDENTS OF HOUSING ESTATES IN URBAN AREAS BUT WISH TO TRANSFER THEIR FLATS TO TUEN MUN, OR THOSE WHO HAVE EARLIER APPLIED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND WANT TO MOVE TO THE DISTRICT NOW.

THE NEW TERRITORIES MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION WILL BE CO-ORDINATING APPLICATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED.

FORMED IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SUB-COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING THE NEW TOWN'S COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS, ENTREPRENEURS AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE REPRESENTED ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH IS ONE OF SIX SERVING THE DISTRICT BOARD. IT IS CHAIRED BY TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM AND HAS 10 OFFICIAL AND 14 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

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