



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS URGED TO OPEN SPECIAL CLASSES	1
DOG LICENCES EXTENDED TO THREE YEARS	3
MORE COMFORT FOR FIRST CLASS TRAIN PASSENGERS	4
BRASS BAND CONCERTS	5
SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT PARTY FOR STAFF'S CHILDREN	5
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN JAVA ROAD	6
FIRING PRACTICE	6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 1 -

SECONDARY SCHOOLS URGED TO OPEN SPECIAL CLASSES

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, TODAY APPEALED TO MORE THAN 200 HEADS AND TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO GIVE THEIR FULLEST CONSIDERATION AND HELP IN THE OPENING OF SPECIAL CLASSES IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

MR. HAYE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ON SPECIAL CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. IT WAS ORGANISED TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SECONDARY LEVEL.

+THE SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES IN ORDINARY PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY PROVED SUCCESSFUL,+ MR. HAYE SAID, +AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION AND GOODWILL, THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES IN ORDINARY SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL ALSO BE SUCCESSFUL.+

THE NEED FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AT SECONDARY LEVEL IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AROSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR REGARDING COMPULSORY JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

+ONE MAJOR CONSEQUENCE OF THIS POLICY IS THAT ALL PRIMARY 6 PUPILS, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY AND ATTAINMENT LEVEL, WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FREE FORM 1 PLACES IN SEPTEMBER 1978. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED, PARTIALLY HEARING, MALADJUSTED AND SLOW LEARNING PUPILS WHO ARE NOW IN PRIMARY 6 SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES.

+HITHERTO, THE MAJORITY OF THESE PUPILS HAVE HAD TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AFTER PRIMARY 6 BECAUSE THEY DID NOT PERFORM WELL ENOUGH IN THE S.S.E.E. FROM SEPTEMBER 1978, THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A FREE SECONDARY PLACE AND BECOME PART OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

+MANY OF THESE PUPILS WILL STILL REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION,+ HE SAID. +IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUPILS, INCLUDING THOSE IN NEED OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE FREE EDUCATION WHICH IS NOW TO BE PROVIDED FOR THEM, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOW EXPAND PRIMARY SPECIAL EDUCATION INTO THE SECONDARY LEVEL.+

+IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL SECONDARY PUPILS, THE NON-HANDICAPPED AS WELL AS THE HANDICAPPED, WE MUST PROVIDE FOR THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND AS ADEQUATELY AS WE CAN,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HAYE SAID, +THOSE OF YOU WHO DO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VERY WORTHWHILE EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE CAN BE ASSURED OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.+

MISS ELIZABETH ROWE, PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER (SPECIAL EDUCATION), SPOKE ON THE INTEGRATION OF HANDICAPPED PUPILS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS, EMPHASISING THE RATIONALE AND IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATION AND THE BENEFITS TO BOTH HANDICAPPED AND NON-HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

/SHE SAID,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 2 -

SHE SAID, +THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR VIEW OF HANDICAP, THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE HANDICAPPED PERSONS THEMSELVES, AND OUR GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIFFERING DEGREES OF HANDICAP, TOGETHER WITH THE WORLD-WIDE MOVE TOWARDS NORMALITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED, HAVE LED TO EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO EDUCATE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS, TO EDUCATE THEM WITH ORDINARY CHILDREN.

+IT IS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE, HANDICAPPED CHILDREN SHOULD BE EDUCATED IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS.+

THE FIRST SPECIAL CLASS WAS OPENED IN A GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 1965. TODAY, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 351 SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THESE INCLUDE 27 SPECIAL CLASSES FOR THE PARTIALLY HEARING, FIVE FOR THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED, 43 FOR THE MALADJUSTED, 183 FOR THE SLOW LEARNING AND 93 RESOURCE CLASSES.

+IN ADDITION, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,700 PUPILS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS RECEIVING REGULAR PERIPATETIC OR FOLLOW-UP SERVICES. THE MAJORITY OF THESE PUPILS ARE LEARNING SATISFACTORILY IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS. MANY PUPILS IN THE PAST HAVE MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS AND NO LONGER NEED PLACEMENT IN A SPECIAL CLASS,+ MISS ROWE SAID.

SHE ADDED : +SEVERAL SEVERELY HANDICAPPED PUPILS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION IN A SPECIAL SCHOOL HAVE MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO CONTINUE THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS. SOME OF THESE PUPILS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENTER A UNIVERSITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

+AS A RESULT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN PRIMARY SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES, WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO EXTEND PROVISION TO ORDINARY SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

+BY 1985, WE HOPE TO HAVE 341 SPECIAL OR RESOURCE CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR APPROXIMATELY 12,835 PUPILS. IN ADDITION THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION HOPES TO PROVIDE PERIPATETIC AND SPECIALIST FOLLOW-UP SERVICES FOR MORE THAN 8,000 PUPILS.+

MISS ROWE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ATTITUDE OF UNDERSTANDING, CONSIDERATION, AND ACCEPTANCE IN THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF THE HANDICAPPED PUPILS IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS.

THE SEMINAR INCLUDED TALKS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF SPECIAL CLASSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON EXISTING SPECIAL CLASSES AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

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/3

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 3 -

VALIDITY OF DOG LICENCES EXTENDED TO THREE YEARS

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THE VALIDITY OF A DOG LICENCE HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM ONE YEAR TO THREE YEARS UNDER THE DOGS AND CATS (AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS 1978 GAZETTED TODAY.

THE LICENCE IS NOW VALID FOR THE SAME PERIOD AS THE ANTI-RABIES INOCULATION WHICH IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL DOGS IN HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. TED NICHOLS, SAID TODAY THAT THE AMENDED REGULATIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON TUESDAY AND THE AMENDMENTS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR OWNERS TO HAVE THEIR DOGS INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND LICENSED AT THE SAME TIME.

HE SAID, THE CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS ALSO FIXED THE LICENSING FEE AT \$15 FOR THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD FOR BOTH URBAN AND RURAL DOG OWNERS.

MR. NICHOLS SAID THAT DOGS INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AT ANY TIME DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS ARE COVERED UNDER THE NEW AMENDMENTS AND DO NOT HAVE TO BE RELICENSED UNTIL THE INOCULATION IS DUE FOR RENEWAL.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO EXTEND THE AGE AT WHICH A DOG SHOULD BE INOCULATED AND LICENSED FROM THREE TO FIVE MONTHS. RECENT FINDINGS INDICATE THAT DEFERRING INOCULATION UNTIL FIVE MONTHS OF AGE, RESULTS IN A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE FIRST-STAGE INOCULATION.

+SHOULD RABIES BE ACCIDENTALLY REINTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG, THE MOST LIKELY TRANSMISSION TO THE HUMAN POPULATION WOULD BE THROUGH AFFECTED DOGS,+ MR. NICHOLS SAID.

+FOR THIS REASON,+ HE SAID, +THE DEPARTMENT OPERATES A CONTINUAL PROGRAMME FOR CATCHING AND DESTROYING UNCONTROLLED AND STRAY DOGS. AND IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, IT SUCCEEDS IN CATCHING ABOUT 630 DOGS A MONTH.

+SINCE MAY 1977, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SERIES OF RABIES AWARENESS AND LICENSING CAMPAIGNS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG. THESE CAMPAIGNS HAVE SO FAR RESULTED IN SOME 25,000 DOGS BEING VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES -- ABOUT 13,000 MORE THAN THE USUAL ANNUAL AVERAGE.

+TO ENSURE THAT REGULAR INOCULATION IS CARRIED OUT, DOGS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED. BUT EXPERIENCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT NOT ALL DOGS ARE BROUGHT IN FOR INOCULATION, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE DOGS DO NOT NORMALLY LEAVE THE OWNERS' PREMISES.

+BECAUSE LICENCES HAVE BEEN VALID FOR ONE YEAR ONLY, EVEN FEWER DOGS ARE BROUGHT BACK FOR INSPECTION AND RELICENSING, THUS MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO CHECK WHETHER DOGS ARE RE-INOCULATED ON TIME.

/+THE FACT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 4 -

+THE FACT THAT SOME OWNERS HAVE BROKEN THE LAW BY NOT RENEWING THEIR ANNUAL LICENCES PROVIDES A DISINCENTIVE FOR THEM TO BRING THEIR DOGS IN FOR THE THREE YEARLY INOCULATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR. NICHOLS POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW MEASURES WOULD OBTAIN THE NEED FOR DOGS TO BE INSPECTED AND RE-LICENSED ANNUALLY AND ARE LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE MORE OWNERS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS.

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MORE COMFORT FOR FIRST CLASS TRAIN PASSENGERS
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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY IS REFURBISHING ITS FIRST CLASS COACHES TO PROVIDE MORE SPACIOUS SEATS, COMFORT AND GREATER CONVENIENCE FOR PASSENGERS.

WORK ON REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SEATS FROM 80 TO 70 IN ONE OF THE EIGHT FIRST CLASS COACHES HAS FINISHED.

A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT LATER THIS YEAR AIR CONDITION WILL ALSO BE INSTALLED IN THE REMAINING FOUR NON-AIR CONDITIONED FIRST CLASS COACHES.

HE SAID: +DESPITE THE ALTERATION, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE FARE, AND UNDER THE EXISTING FARE STRUCTURE TRAVELLERS IN THE AIR CONDITIONED COACHES ARE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$1 IRRESPECTIVE OF THE DISTANCE OF THE JOURNEY.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND A PHOTOGRAPHER TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE REFURBISHED COACH. THOSE WISHING TO DO SO SHOULD CONTACT THE DUTY STATION MASTER AT THE KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION OR BY CALLING 3-646321 EXT. 234

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 5 -

BRASS BAND CONCERTS
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THE MONG KOK CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING TWO BRASS BAND CONCERTS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AIMED AT STIMULATING AND PROMOTING SCHOOL CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN MUSIC.

ABOUT 800 CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 8 AND 15 WILL ATTEND.

THE CONCERTS, WHICH INCLUDE A NUMBER OF CLASSICAL COMPOSITIONS, WILL BE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. AND 11 A.M. AT THE SHARON PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CHERRY STREET, TAI KOK TSUI, KOWLOON.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE OCCASION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT PARTY FOR OVER 1,000 CHILDREN
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THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PARTY FOR ABOUT 1,300 CHILDREN OF ITS STAFF ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPOUND IN OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

THE PARTY WILL FEATURE GAMES, AIR RIFLE SHOOTING, TRAIN RIDE, GLOVE PUPPET SHOW, BICYCLE DEMONSTRATION, MUSIC BY CAPE COLLINSON TRAINING CENTRE PIPER BAND AND THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE BAND. THERE WILL ALSO BE A VARIETY SHOW PERFORMED BY SHAW BROTHERS' ARTISTES.

THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. F.J. YOUNG, WILL ATTEND THE PARTY AND DRAW THE WINNING NUMBERS OF A RAFFLE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PARTY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 12.30 P.M. ON SUNDAY.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

- 6 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN JAVA ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. TODAY (FRIDAY), ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS IN JAVA ROAD BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND TONG SHUI ROAD FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY.

THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS, ARE IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN JAVA ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 10 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

DATE -----	HOURS -----
MARCH 1 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 4 P.M.
MARCH 3 (FRIDAY)	9.30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
MARCH 16 (THURSDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 5 P.M.
MARCH 17 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
MARCH 21 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 22 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 A.M. - 5 P.M.
MARCH 28 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 30 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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