



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1976.

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TWO MILLIONTH OVERSEAS TELEPHONE CALL

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TODAY (FRIDAY) MADE A TELEPHONE CALL TO SIR ROBERT BLACK (GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG 1958-1964), IN ENGLAND TO MARK THE TWO MILLIONTH OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL CALL THIS YEAR -- THE FIRST TIME OVER TWO MILLION INTERNATIONAL CALLS HAVE BEEN MADE FROM HONG KONG IN ANY ONE YEAR.

SIR DENYS MADE THE CALL AT 5 P.M. FROM HIS OFFICE IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MR. G.R. ROSS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY-- MR. ERIC WALKER, DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER OF HKTC, AND MR. G.F.A. WARWICK, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CABLE AND WIRELESS.

IN HIS CALL, THE ACTING GOVERNOR REFERRED TO THE TWO MILLIONTH INTERNATIONAL CALL, AND SAID : +IT DOES SHOW THE TREMENDOUS WAY IN WHICH OUR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS HAS GROWN DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS.

HE ALSO TOLD SIR ROBERT OF THE CHANGES IN HONG KONG BETWEEN 1969 WHEN HE RETURNED HERE FOR A BRIEF VISIT AND TODAY.

AT THE END OF THE SEVEN-MINUTE CALL, SIR ROBERT GAVE HIS BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND CONGRATULATED THE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT.

+IT IS A SPLENDID MILESTONE,+ HE ADDED.

HONG KONG IS RENOWNED FOR ITS EXCELLENT INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES UNDER WHICH MANY TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS ARE ABLE TO DIAL INTERNATIONAL CALLS DIRECT BY USING THE INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIBER DIALLING SERVICE. INTERNATIONAL CALLS HAVE DRAMATICALLY GROWN FROM 143,000 IN 1964 WHEN SIR ROBERT WAS HERE TO OVER TWO MILLION THIS YEAR.

IT IS RECALLED THAT IN 1958, THERE WERE ONLY 20 INTERNATIONAL SERVICE SWITCHBOARDS AND ALL INTERNATIONAL CALLS WERE RADIO AND INVOLVED A MINIMUM OF TWO OPERATORS TO HANDLE THE CALL.

IN 1963, THE TELEPHONE COMPANY OPENED THEIR CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL SWITCHBOARD EQUIPPED WITH 36 OPERATORS POSITIONS. THESE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY EXTENDED TO 126 OPERATORS POSITIONS TO MEET THE INCREASED DEMAND ON THE SERVICE.

IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE TELEPHONE COMPANY OPENED ITS NEW INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTRE IN WAN CHAI WHERE AN ADDITIONAL 74 CORDLESS SWITCHBOARDS OF THE MOST MODERN DESIGN WERE BROUGHT INTO SERVICE TO SUPPLEMENT THE 126 SWITCHBOARDS EXISTING IN ITS CENTRAL EXCHANGE AT THAT TIME.

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OVER THE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CALLS MADE FROM HONG KONG HAS GROWN AT VARYING RATES OF BETWEEN 15 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT PER ANNUM. BY 1964, THE NUMBER OF OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL CALLS HAD REACHED 143,000 A YEAR.

ALTHOUGH THAT WAS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT AT THE TIME IT IS MUCH LESS THAN THE 200,000 INTERNATIONAL CALLS NOW MADE EACH MONTH.

ALSO, THE 14,500 CALLS NOW MADE TO SINGAPORE EACH MONTH EQUAL THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS MADE TO SINGAPORE IN THE WHOLE OF 1964.

TO CATER THIS TREMENDOUS GROWTH, THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAS PROVIDED MORE OPERATORS AND INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FOR THEM TO USE.

TO MATCH THIS EFFORT, THE CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED HAS PROVIDED MORE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUITS TO HONG KONG AND INSTALLED MODERN SWITCHING EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL SWITCHING CENTRE IN NEW MERCURY HOUSE.

THE CLARITY OF MODERN RADIO CIRCUITS VIA SATELLITE IS A FAR CRY FROM THE CRACKLE OF THE LONG WAVE RADIO OF 20 YEARS AGO.

IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICE FACILITIES WERE FURTHER ENHANCED WHEN MANY TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS WERE THEMSELVES ABLE TO DIAL INTERNATIONAL CALLS DIRECT BY USING THE INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIBER DIALLING SERVICE -- THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT FOR OVERSEAS CALLS -- WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE TO 14 OTHER COUNTRIES.

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RESUMPTION OF PROPERTIES IN BOWRINGTON ROAD
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RESUMPTION OF PROPERTIES IN THE BOWRINGTON ROAD VICINITY TO MAKE WAY FOR A NEW MARKET IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

A TOTAL OF TEN BUILDINGS ARE INVOLVED IN THE RESUMPTION. OFFICIAL RESUMPTION NOTICE WAS POSTED IN JUNE THIS YEAR, AND THE PROPERTIES CONCERNED HAVE ALL REVERTED BACK TO THE CROWN IN JULY.

IN ADDITION TO THE PROPERTIES RESUMED, 17 TENEMENT BUILDINGS ON CROWN LAND HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED EITHER BY AGREEMENT WITH THE FORMER OWNERS OR UPON THE EXPIRATION OF NON-RENEWABLE LEASES.

FORMER DOMESTIC TENANTS OF THE PROPERTIES RESUMED HAVE ALL BEEN OFFERED COMPENSATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CROWN LANDS OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY. OWNER OCCUPIERS WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE RECEIVE OFFERS OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR OCCUPATION ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE DOMESTIC TENANTS.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THERE HAD BEEN QUITE A NUMBER OF LETTERS OF OFFER WHICH WERE SENT TO THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESSES BUT RETURNED BY THE POST OFFICE ON NON-DELIVERY BECAUSE WHEN THE PEOPLE MOVED OUT, THEY DID NOT NOTIFY EITHER THE P.W.D. OR THE POST OFFICE OF THEIR NEW ADDRESSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IF ANY EX-TENANTS OF THOSE RESUMED BUILDINGS CONSIDERED THE PAYMENT OF THEIR COMPENSATION OVERDUE THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE CROWN LANDS OFFICE.

AS REGARDS COMPENSATION FOR COMMERCIAL TENANTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, LETTERS OF OFFER TO THEM HAD ALSO BEEN SENT.

COMPENSATION FOR THESE COMMERCIAL TENANTS IS CALCULATED ON A RANGE OF RATES AND THE TOP FIGURE IN THE RANGE IS ABOUT \$40 PER SQUARE FOOT OF SPACE OCCUPIED. THE TOP FIGURE IN THE RANGE FOR DOMESTIC PROPERTY IS \$20 PER SQUARE FOOT.

IF TENANTS THINK THE AMOUNT BEING OFFERED IS INADEQUATE THEY CAN, IN THE CASE OF A BUSINESS TENANCY, SUBMIT STATUTORY CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION, OR TAKE THEIR CASES TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL. IT IS ALSO OPEN FOR DOMESTIC TENANTS TO SUBMIT THEIR CLAIMS TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL. WHERE A TENANT OF A RESUMED PROPERTY INTENDS TO SUBMIT SUCH A CLAIM THE CROWN LANDS OFFICE IS NEVERTHELESS PREPARED TO MAKE AN EX-GRATIA ADVANCE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT OFFERED WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE TENANTS' RIGHT TO SUBSEQUENTLY SUBMIT HIS CLAIM. HOWEVER, STATUTORY CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS TO THE TRIBUNAL MUST BE SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE.

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LANDLORDS AND OWNER-OCCUPIERS ARE BEING COMPENSATED WITH THE FULL MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES RESUMED AT THE DATE OF REVERSION.

IN THE CASE OF OCCUPIERS OF THE SEVERAL BUILDINGS THE CROWN LEASES OF WHICH EXPIRED IN 1973/74 AND WERE NOT RENEWED, THEY ARE BEING COMPENSATED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE TENANTS OF THE RESUMED PROPERTIES. THESE OCCUPIERS WILL SHORTLY BE ASKED TO COLLECT THEIR COMPENSATION FROM THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION TO CASH COMPENSATION, FORMER OWNER-OCCUPIERS AND DOMESTIC TENANTS ARE ALL OFFERED ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC HOUSING, PROVIDED THEY ARE QUALIFIED UNDER THE HOUSING AUTHORITY RULES.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE ON CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE 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 THE FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE: -

DATE -----	HOURS -----
DECEMBER 2 (THURSDAY)	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
DECEMBER 3 (FRIDAY)	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
DECEMBER 14 (TUESDAY)	9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
DECEMBER 15 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
DECEMBER 16 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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SOCIAL WORK - A CHALLENGING CAREER

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A SOCIAL WORKER MAKES THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE SOLUTION OF INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND SERVE AS AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF WAH YAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG, HE SAID THE SOCIAL WORKER SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AT HEART AND SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS.

+THE FULFILMENT OF ANY OF THESE FUNCTIONS CONSTITUTES A CHALLENGING YET REWARDING CAREER FOR ANYONE WHO WILL CONSIDER CHOOSING SOCIAL WORK AS A PROFESSION,+ HE STRESSED.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT SOCIAL WORK IN HONG KONG TODAY EMBRACED TWO MAIN STREAMS OF SERVICES : REMEDIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL.

ON REMEDIAL SERVICE, HE NOTED THAT SOCIAL WORKERS' ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING COUNSELLING AS WELL AS TANGIBLE SERVICES TO THOSE DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS, LIKE THE HANDICAPPED, THE ELDERLY, THE DELINQUENT, FAMILIES IN NEED AND PERSONS WITH BEHAVIOUR EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.

+ THESE ARE BY NO MEANS SIMPLE JOBS. TO HELP SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, SOCIAL WORKERS MUST HAVE GENUINE RESPECT FOR PERSONS WHO NEED HELP AND RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+TO DO THESE JOBS, SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE IN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AND DYNAMICS OF HUMAN RELATIONS AS WELL AS THE NECESSARY SKILLS OF INTERVENTION.

+THEY SHOULD POSSESS AT THEIR FINGER TIPS A COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF VARIOUS TYPES OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG WHICH CAN BE USED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE THEY ARE HELPING.+

+MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL,+ HE CONTINUED, +SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD KNOW HOW TO LISTEN, TO TALK AND TO PROVIDE MATERIAL AID TO PEOPLE WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY TOWARDS THEIR FEELINGS, SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED WITH GROWING CONFIDENCE, NOT WITH GUILTY FEELINGS.+

TURNING TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL SIDE, MR. LEE EMPHASISED THAT SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN WORKING WITH COMMUNITY, DEVELOPING LOCAL RESIDENTS' SENSE OF IDENTITY, SENSE OF BELONGING AND SENSE OF WORTH.

/+THEY MAY

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+THEY MAY AIM AT WORKING WITH GROUPS OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, WORKING YOUTHS, OR LOCAL LEADERS. THEIR JOBS VARY FROM ORGANISING INTEREST GROUPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELPING TO PROMOTE SELF-HELP PROJECTS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS,+ MR. LEE POINTED OUT.

+THEY ARE BASICALLY CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL BETTERMENT. TO DO THIS, THEY MUST HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE AND FEATURES OF LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

BEFORE THEY EMBARKED ON THEIR CHALLENGING TASKS, HE STRESSED, THEY MUST ALSO KNOW FOR SURE THE WAY TO GET SUPPORT AND SANCTION FROM THE COMMUNITY.

FINALLY, HE ASSURED THE STUDENTS THAT SOCIAL WORK WOULD OFFER THEM A MOST CHALLENGING AND SATISFYING PROFESSION. +IT WILL NOT MAKE YOU RICH= BUT IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO MAKE A REAL AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU LIVE,+ HE SAID.

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FIRST AIDED GIRLS SCHOOL IN ABERDEEN OPENED

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY TODAY OPENED THE PUI TAK CANOSSIAN COLLEGE, THE FIRST AIDED SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN THE ABERDEEN AREA.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR. TOPLEY SAID: +THE COMPLETION OF PUI TAK COLLEGE PROVIDES YET ANOTHER FINE EXAMPLE OF THE HIGH DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION THAT CONTINUES TO EXIST BETWEEN SPONSORING BODIES -- BE THEY RELIGIOUS OR LAY -- AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND WITHOUT WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG WOULD BE SERIOUSLY INHIBITED.+

CONGRATULATING THE CANOSSIAN MISSION AND ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO FRUITION, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE MISSION HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

THE NEW COLLEGE BROUGHT TO SIX THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY THE MISSION WHICH WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING TEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE NEW 24-CLASSROOM SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS AN ENROLMENT OF 600 GIRLS ALREADY.

MR. TOPLEY MADE SOME BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE - +PUI TAK+, THAT IS, +DEVELOP VIRTUE+.

HE SAID: +IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT APART FROM THE ACQUISITION OF BASIC SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, THE PUPIL SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP MORAL QUALITIES AND TO STRENGTHEN CHARACTER.+

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SECOND GRADUATION CEREMONY OF I.S.W.T.

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THERE WILL BE AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR SOCIAL WORKERS WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL PROGRESS, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. S.Y. CHUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE SECOND GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AT THE CITY HALL AT WHICH 80 STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES IN SOCIAL WORK AFTER COMPLETING THE TWO-YEAR COURSE.

IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, DR. CHUNG TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR JOINING THE POLYTECHNIC FROM THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

+TO BE A TRUE POLYTECHNIC WE HAVE TO OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF DIVERSIFIED COURSES OF STUDY TO MEET THE VARYING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THIS REASON WE AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT.+

DR. CHUNG ALSO BELIEVED THAT SUCH AN INTEGRATION WOULD BRING MANY ADVANTAGES FOR THE STUDENTS.

HE NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS WOULD HAVE MUCH BETTER AND LARGER PREMISES AND GREATER FACULTY SUPPORT FROM OTHER DISCIPLINES AND SERVICES AND THEY WOULD ALSO HAVE MUCH MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND MAKE FRIENDS WITH A LARGE BODY OF CONTEMPORARY COUNTERPARTS.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE NEEDY STUDENTS WOULD BE QUALIFIED FOR THE GENEROUS POLYTECHNIC GRANTS AND LOANS SCHEME.

DURING THE CEREMONY, MR. LIU LIT-MO OF THE CHIU CHOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE= MR. LIU LIT-MAN OF THE CHIU CHOW ASSOCIATION, MR. HWANG KING-HUNG OF THE PENINSULA LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR. LAM HEI-CHUNG OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE I.S.W.T. AND MR. RONALD LU OF THE YOUTH ORGANISATION FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED PRESENTED A TOTAL OF 68 BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH ABOUT \$30,000 TO THE STUDENTS OF THE CURRENT COURSE.

IN THANKING THE ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID THESE DONATIONS WOULD NOT ONLY ASSIST CAPABLE AND NEEDY STUDENTS BUT WOULD ALSO REPRESENT +AN INDIRECT BUT VERY REAL AND IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY+.

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+THEY WILL HELP PRODUCE A MUCH NEEDED GROUP OF SOCIAL WORKERS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO THE WORK TOWARDS HUMAN BETTERMENT IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE INSTITUTE, MR. L.B. MACQUARRIE, SAID THAT THE INSTITUTE WAS WORKING TO DEVELOP A NEW COURSE IN CHILD CARE IN CO-OPERATION WITH CHILD CARE EXPERTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS.

+IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS COURSE WILL PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED MANPOWER FOR CENTRES WHICH COME UNDER THE NEW CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE, AND IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ORDINANCE IN HELPING TO RAISE STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE IN HONG KONG,+ HE STRESSED.

ALL THE 80 GRADUATES ARE NOW IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT, 20 IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR AND 60 IN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, MAINLY IN CARITAS, BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION AND SALVATION ARMY.

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C.A.S. ANNUAL SPORTS DAY
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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SPORTS DAY ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 28) AT THE MONG KOK STADIUM

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WILL BE THE INVITATION RELAY EVENT IN WHICH TEAMS FROM MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION WILL PARTICIPATE.

WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES BY THE CAS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, MR. HO TSE-KIN.

THE ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET IS ONE OF MANY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THE C.A.S. ORGANISES FOR ITS VOLUNTEER MEMBERS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTIVES TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MONG KOK STADIUM FROM 9 A.M. ON THAT DAY.

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SAFER INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR DRY BATTERY WORKERS
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THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (DRY BATTERIES) REGULATIONS 1976 APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLIER THIS YEAR AND PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY COMES INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1977.

THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH AIM TO CONTROL HEALTH HAZARDS POSED BY CARBON BLACK, MANGANESE DIOXIDE AND AMMONIUM CHLORIDE USED IN MANUFACTURING DRY BATTERIES ARE INTENDED TO BRING ABOUT A SAFER INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT CARBON BLACK CAUSED IRRITATION TO THE EYES= MANGANESE DIOXIDE WAS TOXIC AND COULD HAVE CUMULATIVE POISONOUS EFFECTS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM= AND AMMONIUM CHLORIDE COULD CAUSE DERMATITIS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE MAIN RISK WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF POISONING BY MANGANESE DIOXIDE WHICH MIGHT BE INGESTED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +UNDER THE REGULATIONS, FACTORY PROPRIETORS MUST TAKE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES.

- (I) PROVIDE PROPER VENTILATION OF WORKPLACES TO KEEP CONTAMINANTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN SAFE LIMITS=
- (II) SEGREGATE CERTAIN PROCESSES OF MANUFACTURE, AND PROVIDE PROPER STORAGE OF CHEMICALS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONTAMINATION=
- (III) PROVIDE PROTECTIVE CLOTHINGS FOR WORKERS=
- (IV) MAINTAIN A MINIMUM STANDARD OF CLEANLINESS OF WORKPLACES= AND
- (V) PROVIDE WASHING FACILITIES FOR WORKERS.+

MEMBERS OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL CALL ON FACTORIES MAKING DRY BATTERIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND DELIVER TO THE MANAGEMENT AN EXPLANATORY LETTER LISTING THESE REQUIREMENTS. IF NECESSARY, THEY WILL ALSO GIVE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE AS TO THE BEST WAYS OF COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS.

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WORKERS TO GET FOUR MORE REST DAYS NEXT YEAR
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THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1976 WHICH PROVIDES FOR ONE REST DAY IN EVERY SEVEN DAY PERIOD FOR HONG KONG WORKERS COMPLETED ITS THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

THE NEW BILL WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON JANUARY 2 NEXT YEAR WHEN IT WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REST DAYS IN A YEAR FOR HONG KONG WORKERS FROM 48 TO 52. IT WILL AFFECT ALL NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH AND ALL MANUAL WORKERS UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS, WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS COULD NOT WORK FOR MORE THAN SIX DAYS IN ANY WEEK WHILE ALL EMPLOYEES TO WHOM PART IV OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED ARE AT PRESENT ENTITLED TO NOT LESS THAN FOUR REST DAYS IN A MONTH.

HE SAID: +SINCE 1970 WHEN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH, THE TAKING OF REGULAR REST DAYS BY HONG KONG'S HARDWORKING POPULATION HAS BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE.+

HE ADDED THAT EXISTING PROVISIONS WERE RETAINED IN THE ORDINANCE TO GIVE FLEXIBILITY TO EMPLOYERS IN SUBSTITUTING ALTERNATIVE REST DAYS.

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