



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1979

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D.S.W. REVIEWS WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS OF 1978
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY (MONDAY) DESCRIBED 1978 AS A YEAR OF EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE SCENE AND FELT CONFIDENT A LOT MORE WOULD CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IN THE NEW YEAR.

HE SAID A COMPREHENSIVE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY AND THIS WOULD SET OUT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

AND BY APRIL THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THE OPERATION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE BECOME FULLY REGIONALISED TO IMPROVE DIRECT SERVICES TO THE NEEDY.

REVIEWING THE WELFARE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1978, MR. LEE SAID THEY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT THE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION AND EFFORTS BY THE COMMUNITY AND THE VOLUNTARY WELFARE SECTOR.

HE SAID DEVELOPMENT WAS PARTICULARLY APPARENT IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SECURITY, WITH FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, OLD AGE ALLOWANCES AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE DIRECTLY BENEFITING 300,000 PEOPLE.

TO BEGIN WITH, HE SAID, THE SCALE RATES OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND WELFARE ALLOWANCES WERE RAISED BY ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY, MEANING MORE MONEY FOR THOSE LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES.

IN APRIL, THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED A SERIES OF MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS INTO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES PROVIDING NEW OR INCREASED BENEFITS, HE ADDED.

THESE INCLUDED AN ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR- A MONTHLY OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT FOR THOSE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, AND AN INCOME DISREGARD PROVISION IN WORKING OUT THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE OLD BUT WORKING PART-TIME, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR. LEE SAID WELFARE ALLOWANCES WERE EXTENDED TO PEOPLE LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS, AND AN INDEPENDENT APPEAL BOARD CONSISTING OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WAS SET UP TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ON SOCIAL SECURITY CASES.

+IN OCTOBER, WE MADE YET ANOTHER MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SCHEME, WITH THE QUALIFYING AGE REDUCED FROM 75 TO 70,+ HE SAID.

SO FAR, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 58,000 APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE IN THE 70-74 AGE GROUP, WHICH ADDED CONSIDERABLY TO THE PREVIOUS CASELOAD OF 66,000.

IN OTHER FIELDS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. LEE SAID THE RATE OF PROGRESS WAS ALSO IMPRESSIVE.

/FOR EXAMPLE

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, MORE HOMES AND HOSTELS WERE PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY, AND TWO DAY AND RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CENTRES WERE SET UP FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN, A FIELD USED TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

+IN CHILD CARE, DEVELOPMENT HAS TAKEN A BIG STEP FORWARD WITH A LARGE INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION, THE APPROVED SUBVENTION PROVISION FOR 1978-79 BEING \$24.7 MILLION COMPARED WITH \$17 MILLION FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

THIS WAS BEING USED TO MAINTAIN EXISTING CHILD CARE CENTRES, FINANCING 1,000 ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE PLACES AND COVERING THE COST FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE, HE SAID.

IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, MR. LEE SAID A COMMUNITY-WIDE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED EARLIER IN THE YEAR TO PROMOTE BETTER FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

+WE ARE NOW IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN EMPHASISING THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH TARGET GROUP IN THE FAMILY, NAMELY PARENTS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, OLD PEOPLE AND YOUTH,+ HE SAID.

ON REGIONALISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR. LEE SAID A START WAS ALREADY MADE WITH THE POSTING OF FOUR REGIONAL OFFICERS TO HONG KONG ISLAND, EAST KOWLOON, WEST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+BY APRIL THIS YEAR, WE WILL HAVE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICERS IN 11 DISTRICTS, AND OUR ULTIMATE AIM IS TO PROVIDE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES PRACTICALLY UNDER ONE ROOF,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE SAID ALL THESE REPRESENTED ONLY PART OF THE EXPANSION AND ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1978 AND +I AM SURE A LOT MORE WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE SCENE IN THE NEW YEAR.+

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TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL OPENS

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THE STRAINS OF CLASSICAL WESTERN MUSIC MINGLED WITH THE DRUMS AND GONGS OF TRADITIONAL CANTONESE OPERA THIS (MONDAY) EVENING AS TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS FIRST ARTS FESTIVAL.

THE TWO-WEEK FESTIVAL CAME TO LIFE IN SIMPLE STYLE -- WITH THE CUTTING OF A MULTI-COLOURED RIBBON BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES -- BUT THE SNIP OF THE GOLDEN SCISSORS HERALDED A BROAD RANGE OF PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS AT VARIOUS VENUES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN.

IT IS THE FIRST DISTRICT-WIDE FESTIVAL EVER STAGED IN HONG KONG AND MARKS, AS MR. AKERS-JONES SAID IN HIS BRIEF OPENING SPEECH, +AN EVOLUTION IN A MODERN CITY OF THE LONG TRADITION ON INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN ART OF ALL KINDS WHICH CHARACTERISES OUR SOCIETY.+

/THE VENUE

THE VENUE OF THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS THE TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, WHOSE 1,000-SEAT AUDITORIUM HAS BEEN MODIFIED AND RENOVATED TO ACCOMMODATE THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WHICH PLAYED BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY BEFORE THE INTERVAL AND CHINESE CLASSICS AFTER IT.

UNDER MATSHEDS AT THE NEARBY SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND, THE RENOWNED PHOENIX OPERA TROUPE CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE, WITH THEIR PERFORMANCE OF THE CANTONESE OPERA, THE FAIRY OF RIVER LOK SHUI, A LEGENDARY STORY OF ANCIENT CHINA ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE OF A LOVE AFFAIR WITH HER BROTHER-IN-LAW.

THE EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT -- VOTED A SPLENDID SUCCESS BY ONE AND ALL -- WAS PRECEDED BY A COCKTAIL RECEPTION ATTENDED BY SOME 300 LOCAL VIPS LED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MR. CHAN PO-FONG, AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

DESPITE THE INFORMALITY AND LOCATION OF THE RECEPTION -- IN THE SCHOOL'S COVERED PLAYGROUND -- SOME OF THE MEN WERE IN BLACK TIE, THEIR LADIES IN LONG EVENING DRESSES.

+IT'S BEEN QUITE A NIGHT FOR TSUEN WAN,+ REMARKED THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES. +WE'VE REALLY COME OF AGE.+

THE GUESTS WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE 80-PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE PRODUCED FOR THE FESTIVAL BY MR. HO TUNG-CHING, THE FESTIVAL'S EDITORIAL CO-ORDINATOR, AND MR. AKERS-JONES MADE SPECIAL MENTION OF IT IN HIS SPEECH.

+IT IS OF EXCELLENT QUALITY AND GIVES A STRIKING INDICATION OF THE LATENT TALENT AND GREAT POTENTIAL IN OUR NEW COMMUNITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN ORGANISED AND PROMOTED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS A +DRY RUN+ FOR AN ANNUAL TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL.

THE SECOND IS TO BE STAGED EARLY IN 1980, WITH THE PRINCIPAL VENUE BEING THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, A \$23 MILLION PROJECT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION THAT WILL GIVE THE TOWN A CULTURAL COMPLEX MODELLED ALONG THE LINES OF THE CITY HALL IN HONG KONG.

CERTAINLY, THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL HAS ENOUGH VARIETY FOR MOST OF THE HALF MILLION POPULATION OF TSUEN WAN -- FROM CANTONESE, MANDARIN AND CHIU CHOW OPERA, FOLK DANCING AND SINGING, PUPPET SHOWS AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES TO AN APPRECIATION SERIES ON CHINESE AND WESTERN MUSIC, CHINESE OPERA AND CANTONESE DRAMA TO EXHIBITIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY.

THE FESTIVAL HAS PROVED AN INSTANT SUCCESS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND BY OPENING NIGHT MORE THAN HALF OF THE PERFORMANCES AND FUNCTIONS HAD BEEN BOOKED OUT, WHILE THE REMAINDER WERE ABOUT 80 PER CENT SUBSCRIBED.

+IT WOULD SEEM THAT MANY HAVE HAD TO MISS OUT BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY BOOKINGS,+ REPORTED MR. HAYES. +THE ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT WE ARE HOPING FOR SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER AND BETTER FOR THE NEXT FESTIVAL.+

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INFRA-RED SECURITY 'FENCE' FOR NEW RHKAAF HEADQUARTERS AND HELIPORT

MODERN SECURITY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING AN INFRA-RED OPTICAL +FENCE+, WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE NEW \$11.5 MILLION ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AT KAI TAK.

+THE INFRA-RED SECURITY EQUIPMENT WILL WARN OF INTRUSION BY OUTSIDERS FROM THE AIRPORT AND KOWLOON BAY,+ SAID MR. MARC ROBINSON, THE RHKAAF'S CONSULTANT TECHNICAL OFFICER WHO IS SUPERVISING THE ENTIRE PROJECT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+AT THE SAME TIME A CLOSE-CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED FOR SECURITY PURPOSES AS WELL AS FOR FIRE AND AIRCRAFT SAFETY,+ MR. ROBINSON ADDED.

THE NEW BASE, SCHEDULED FOR OPENING ON MARCH 3, WILL ALSO MEAN HONG KONG'S OWN +AIR FORCE+ WILL BECOME FULLY INDEPENDENT IN AIR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE. THE GOVERNOR WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

+ONCE WE MOVE INTO THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OUR ENTIRE OPERATION WILL BE HOUSED UNDER ONE ROOF,+ SAID SQUADRON LEADER J.G. SHAWCROSS, STAFF OFFICER OF THE RHKAAF. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THE ADMINISTRATION BLOCKS, ENGINEERING AND OTHER FACILITIES ARE IN SEPARATE LOCATIONS.

THE NEW COMPLEX HAS A TOTAL AREA OF 3.2 HECTARES ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION NEAR THE EAST EXIT OF THE AIRPORT TUNNEL PROJECT. THIS WILL BE CLOSER TO THE RUNWAY THAN ITS PRESENT BASE.

+THE NEW HEADQUARTERS IS LESS REMOTE AS FAR AS OUR STAFF AND FLYING OPERATIONS ARE CONCERNED,+ SQN. LDR. SHAWCROSS SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IT NOW TAKES 30 MINUTES FOR THEIR FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO TAXI FROM THE EXISTING BASE TO THE AIRPORT RUNWAY AND ACROSS A PUBLIC ROAD BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE OFF FOR AN OPERATION.

+BUT THE JOURNEY FROM THE NEW DISPERSAL AREA TO THE RUNWAY WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES,+ HE ADDED.

'AUXAIRFORCE' WILL ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE WHICH WILL ENABLE THE BASE TO COMMUNICATE MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH ITS AIRCRAFT WHEN THEY ARE AIRBORNE BOTH LOCALLY OR SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES OUT OVER THE SEA AS THEY OFTEN DO WHEN CARRYING OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE AND OTHER OPERATIONS.

THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE THREE-STOREY COMPLEX WILL BE USED AS AIRCRAFT SERVICING BAYS, AND THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS FOR ADMINISTRATION, ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS AND ACCOMMODATION.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A 2,000 SQUARE-METRE HELICOPTER HANGAR LINKED TO THE GROUND FLOOR.

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OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS, DANGEROUS GOODS STORAGE AND A PARADE SQUARE. ADJACENT WILL BE A DISPERSAL AREA FOR THE FLEET OF HELICOPTERS AND FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, AND AN ILLUMINATED HELICOPTER LANDING PAD.

THE RHKAAF IS A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WITH 56 FULL-TIME STAFF AND 116 PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING 20 PILOTS, 18 CREWMEN AND A NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT CONTROLLERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND SO ON. IT HAS A FLEET OF SEVEN AIRCRAFT -- A TWIN-ENGINE BRITTEN-NORMAN ISLANDER, A BEECHCRAFT MUSKETEER LIGHT AIRCRAFT, TWO SCOTTISH AVIATION BULLDOG TRAINERS AND THREE ALOUETTE MARK III HELICOPTERS.

AFTER THE RHKAAF HAS MOVED INTO THE NEW BASE, THE EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE OLD RAF KAI TAK OPPOSITE PING SHEK ESTATE WILL BE VACATED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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MORE CDO PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES IN OPERATION
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THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAS IN RECENT MONTHS SET UP TWO MORE PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES IN THE LAM TIN AND TUNG TAU AREAS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THESE AREAS.

THERE ARE NOW A TOTAL OF 24 CDO PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS.

ALL TWENTY-FOUR PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES :

- (A) ANSWERING ENQUIRIES-
- (B) HANDLING PERSONAL CASES AND COMPLAINTS-
- (C) ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS- AND
- (D) DISTRIBUTING FORMS AND BOOKLETS FOR GOVERNMENT AND SOME NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO OBTAIN THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE MORE CONVENIENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG AND KOWLOON IN THE COMING YEARS.

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THESE ENQUIRY CENTRES ARE FROM 9 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M., MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

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CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY

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THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TO KICK OFF ITS EXTENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH A LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY, AN AGE GROUP THAT NEEDS CARE AND ATTENTION.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE :

- * TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON WHAT IS NORMAL HEALTH IN OLD AGE AND THE PROCESS OF AGEING-
- * TO IMPART KNOWLEDGE TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE VARIOUS FACTORS LEADING TO ILL HEALTH IN THE ELDERLY-
- * TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO OBTAIN OPTIMAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF DISEASES IN THE ELDERLY GROUP-
- * TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON THE AVAILABILITY AND THE USE OF THE VARIOUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL TAKE THE FORM OF EXHIBITIONS TO BE HELD IN THREE REGIONS BEGINNING IN LATE FEBRUARY, COMPLEMENTED BY PUBLICITY THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND POSTERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CAMPAIGN IS AIMED AT AROUSING THE INTEREST OF NOT ONLY THE ELDERLY BUT ALSO ALL OTHER AGE GROUPS WHO HAVE TO UNDERGO THE PROCESS OF AGEING AT A LATER STAGE OF THEIR LIFE.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL, KOWLOON, FROM FEBRUARY 24 TO 26, 1979. THREE OTHER SIMILAR EXHIBITIONS WILL BE STAGED IN MARCH ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE A PHOTO COMPETITION DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE YOUNGER POPULATION TO BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT OLD PEOPLE'S HEALTH.

THERE WILL BE TWO SECTIONS IN THE COMPETITION -- ONE OPEN TO ALL AND THE OTHER FOR STUDENTS ONLY. THE SUBJECT IS ELDERLY -- THEIR FAMILY LIVES AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED CASH PRIZES AND TROPHIES AND THE WINNING ENTRIES DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION AT OCEAN TERMINAL.

DETAILS OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MEDICAL HEADQUARTERS AT LEE GARDENS AND ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON JANUARY 4 TO 6 A.M. ON JANUARY 5.

THE AFFECTED AREA WILL BE FROM NORTH OF QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, EAST SIDE OF LUN FAT STREET, SOUTH SIDE OF JOHNSTON ROAD, LEE TUNG STREET INCLUDING SHIP STREET, TAI WONG STREET EAST AND WEST, SWATOW STREET AND AMOY STREET.

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