



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1974

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### CAREFUL REGULATION OF HOMEWORK

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SPOKE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF HOMEWORK WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HONG KONG TEACHERS ASSOCIATION THIS AFTERNOON.

HE CHOSE THIS TOPIC +AS IT LOOMS LARGE IN THE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL SCENE AND IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.+

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT IT WAS USUAL TO SUPPLEMENT THE LESSONS GIVEN IN SCHOOL BY RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL EXERCISES TO BE DONE BY THE PUPIL OUT OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS. HE ADDED: +TO MY MIND, HOMEWORK PLAYS A NECESSARY PART IN EDUCATING THE PUPIL, PARTICULARLY THE ADOLESCENT - IN CONSOLIDATING KNOWLEDGE, IN PERFECTING SKILLS, IN DEVELOPING THE POWER OF ACQUIRING INFORMATION FROM BOOKS AND THE SELF-CONTROLLED POWER OF APPLICATION.

+ALL OF THESE HAVE TO BE MASTERED BY EACH PUPIL FOR HIMSELF, AND THOUGH THE FIRST STEPS CAN BE MADE IN THE CLASSROOM UNDER GUIDANCE, IT IS ONLY CONTINUED PERSONAL PRACTICE THAT CAN GIVE ANY MASTERY.+

CALLING FOR CAREFUL REGULATION OF HOME WORK, THE DIRECTOR SAID IT WAS THE BUSINESS OF THE SCHOOL TO SEE THAT WHAT WAS ASKED FOR WAS NOT UNREASONABLE, AND THAT +WHERE DIFFERENT TEACHERS SET WORK FOR THE SAME EVENING THE SUM TOTAL OF THE DIFFERENT DEMANDS IS ALSO NOT UNREASONABLE.+

HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REGULATION OF HOMEWORK WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE DURING THE MONTHS PRECEDING AN EXTERNAL EXAMINATION.

+AT SUCH TIMES MANY OF THE MORE CONSCIENTIOUS PUPILS - AMONGST THE GIRLS ESPECIALLY - MAY SPEND OVER THEIR BOOKS ALMOST THE WHOLE OF THEIR TIME BETWEEN ARRIVING HOME AND GOING TO BED, PERHAPS AT A LATE HOUR. THE BOY WHICH IS ALWAYS BENT LOSES ITS SPRING,+ MR. TOPLEY COUNSELLED.

LESS HOMEWORK SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF THE YOUNGER FORMS THAN OF THE OLDER, AND THE QUOTA SET FOR THE WEEKEND SHOULD NOT EXCEED THAT SET ON THE OTHER DAYS OF THE WEEK, THUS ALLOWING THE CHILDREN TO HAVE A FREE EVENING TO SHARE FULLY IN THE FAMILY LIFE.

+I THINK ALSO THAT ANOTHER FREE EVENING IS DESIRABLE IN THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, AND THAT THIS MAY WELL BE CHOSEN TO FALL ON A DAY WHEN PUPILS REMAIN AFTER SCHOOL HOURS FOR VARIOUS CORPORATE ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR URGED SCHOOLS TO GIVE ACTIVE GUIDANCE TO PUPILS IN EMPLOYING THEIR FREE TIME NOT MERELY FOR PURE RECREATION BUT FOR FORMING USEFUL INTERESTS OF THEIR OWN WHICH MIGHT BE REGARDED AS +INFORMAL EXTENSIONS OF SCHOOL WORK+.

/HE MENTIONED .....

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HE MENTIONED GENERAL READING, PLAY-ACTING, LOCAL STUDIES AND DIRECT OBSERVATION, PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ART AND CRAFTS, AND MUSIC, IN ADDITION TO A MULTITUDE OF HOBBIES OF A MORE GENERAL KIND.

SPEAKING AS THE NEW PATRON OF THE HONG KONG TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, MR. TOPLEY SAID THE ASSOCIATION ALWAYS HAD THE WELFARE OF ITS MEMBERS AT HEART AND BUILT UP AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, THE MOST OUTSTANDING OF WHICH WAS THE ORGANISATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

MR. TOPLEY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION'S ALL-OUT EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING SUCH GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGNS LIKE +KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN+ AND +FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME+, FOR WHICH SEMINARS AND ESSAY AND POSTER COMPETITIONS WERE ORGANISED WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

HE NOTED THAT FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS THE ASSOCIATION HAS HAD THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AS ITS PATRON AND HAS WORKED UP A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE ASSOCIATION IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP IS DRAWN FROM TEACHERS ENGAGED IN KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING RACE AT REPULSE BAY  
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OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF SMALL CRAFT ARE URGED TO EXERCISE DUE CAUTION WHEN UNDERWAY IN REPULSE BAY AREA ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 17) WHEN A SWIMMING RACE WILL BE HELD THERE.

THEY SHOULD KEEP WELL CLEAR OF THE SWIMMERS AND MARSHALLING BOATS FOR THE DURATION OF THE RACE.

THE LONG DISTANCE SELF-SURVIVAL SWIMMING RACE WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM AND END AT 12 NOON. THE COURSE WILL EXTEND FROM THE NORTHERN SHORE OF NGAN CHAU (ROUND ISLAND) TO THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUE AT REPULSE BAY.

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NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE IN KOWLOON

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CONVERSION WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE RECENTLY VACATED PERTH STREET GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH WILL BE TURNED INTO A NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTRE TO CATER FOR THE LARGE POPULATION IN KOWLOON.

THE NEW KOWLOON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, INCLUDED IN THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1977.

ALTHOUGH THE CENTRE WILL NOT BE IN FULL OPERATION TILL 1977, IT WILL START OFFERING SERVICE ON A SMALL SCALE IN JANUARY 1975 WHEN THE FIRST PHASE OF ALTERATIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS COMPLETED.

THE CENTRE WILL OFFER A FULL RANGE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES WHICH INCLUDE ASSESSMENT, REMEDIAL AND PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND/OR BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS.

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND RECENTLY DONATED A SUM OF ABOUT HK\$200,000 TO THE SPEECH THERAPY UNIT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR SETTING UP A PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY, AND PURCHASING EQUIPMENT AND AIDS FOR THE NEW CENTRE.

AT PRESENT THERE IS ONLY ONE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE IN HONG KONG. IT IS IN HOSPITAL ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND. SINCE ITS INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN 1966 THE CENTRE HAS UNDERGONE SEVERAL MAJOR EXPANSION STAGES. IT IS NOW ONE OF THE MOST WELL-EQUIPPED IN ASIA, AND MEASURES UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARD.

CHILDREN ARE MAINLY REFERRED TO THE CENTRE BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND PARENTS.

+PARENTS AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DEALINGS WITH CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO REFER CHILDREN SUSPECTED OF HAVING LEARNING AND/OR BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS TO THE CENTRE,+ THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENTRE SAID.

AT THE CENTRE, ASSESSMENT IS CARRIED OUT BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO DETERMINE THE NATURE AND DEGREE OF THE CHILDREN'S HANDICAP SO THAT SUITABLE REMEDIAL AND/OR PLACEMENT SERVICES CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THEM.

REMEDIAL SERVICES INCLUDE AUDITORY TRAINING AND SPEECH TEACHING FOR DEAF AND PARTIALLY HEARING CHILDREN= INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP SPEECH THERAPY FOR ALL TYPES OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRED CHILDREN= AND PLAY THERAPY AND COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND/OR BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IN RECENT YEARS, THERE IS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SEEKING ADVICE FROM THE CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE OF THE CENTRE.

+THIS MAY POSSIBLY BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE CENTRE IS NOW BETTER KNOWN AMONG THE PUBLIC AND MANY PEOPLE ARE ANXIOUS TO MAKE USE OF THE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS AND COUNSELLORS IN THE CENTRE.

AS EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WILL PREVENT MINOR HANDICAPS FROM DEVELOPING INTO MAJOR DISABILITIES, ATTENTION IS ALSO GIVEN TO STRENGTHENING THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION. SPECIAL TRAINED STAFF OF THE CENTRE REGULARLY CARRY OUT AUDIOMETRIC, SPEECH AND VISION SCREENING PROGRAMMES TO DETECT HEARING, SPEECH OR VISUAL DIFFICULTIES AMONG CHILDREN IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS. CHILDREN FOUND TO BE SUSPECTED OF BEING HANDICAPPED WILL BE GIVEN MORE DETAILED ASSESSMENT AT THE CENTRE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SUCH SERVICES WILL BE EXTENDED TO AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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#### WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE YUEN LONG AREA WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING AT 1 AM ON TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 12).

THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IS TO ENABLE A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

THE AFFECTED AREA WILL BE CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU CROSS ROAD AND SAN TIN= KAM TIN SHI, KAM HING WAI, SHUI TAU TSUEN, SHUI MEI TSUEN, PAK WAI TSUEN AND KAM TIN MARKET= KAM SHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN KAM TIN ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD AND KAM TIN ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU CROSS ROAD AND TSUEN KAM ROAD, INCLUDING SEK KONG CAMP.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT  
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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (SATURDAY) STOOD AT 53,942 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 80.1 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 59,863 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 37,641 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 46,570 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 74.5 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

A TOTAL OF 1.5 MM (0.05 IN) OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 2,102.3 MM (82.76 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,108.7 MM (83.01 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 0.3 PER CENT.

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