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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR COMMENDS ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCOUT MOVEMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID THAT THE WORK OF THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT IT CAN ADJUST QUICKLY TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT ITS SERVICES ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY.

SIR MURRAY WAS ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY RALLY OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT HELD AT THE POLICE FOOTBALL GROUND IN BOUNDARY STREET.

HE NOTED WITH DELIGHT THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAD PUT TO EFFECTIVE USE A SUM OF $200,000 RECEIVED LAST YEAR FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR. THIS MONEY WAS SPENT ON, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FACILITIES AT THE CAMP IN TUNG TSZ AND THE FINANCING OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES UNDER +PROJECT T+.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO GLAD TO SEE THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAD PUT INTO PRACTICE HIS TWO SUGGESTIONS -- TO ALLOW OTHER RESPONSIBLE GROUPS TO BORROW THEIR CAMPING FACILITIES AND TO INVITE BOYS WHO ARE NOT SCOUTS TO TAKE PART IN SOME OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+MR. PRESIDENT, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS: WHEN I ADDRESSED THIS RALLY LAST YEAR I PUT TO YOU TWO SUGGESTIONS.

+FIRST, I SUGGESTED THAT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO INVITE A FEW BOYS WHO ARE NOT SCOUTS TO BE YOUR GUESTS SOMETIMES WHEN YOU GO TO CAMP OR TO THE BEACH.

+SECONDLY, I SUGGESTED THAT YOUR OFFICIALS SHOULD CONSIDER ALLOWING OTHER RESPONSIBLE GROUPS TO BORROW YOUR CAMP AT TUNG TSZ WHEN YOU ARE NOT USING IT YOURSELVES.

+I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE FOUND BOTH THESE SUGGESTIONS PRACTICABLE AND HAVE PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE. I UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A RESULT, ALL YOUR CAMP SITES - NOT ONLY TUNG TSZ BUT ALSO TAI TAM AND GILWELL - HAVE BEEN USED MUCH MORE FULLY. I AM SURE THAT ALL THE BOYS AND ALL THOSE ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE BENEFITTED FROM YOUR HELP IN THIS MEANINGFUL AND PRACTICAL WAY WILL WISH TO JOIN ME IN THANKING YOU FOR IT.

+LAST YEAR, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF A DONOR WHO SHALL REMAIN ANONYMOUS, THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION RECEIVED $200,000 FROM A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FACILITIES AT TUNG TSZ AND TO FINANCE A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES UNDER +PROJECT T+. I AM DELIGHTED THAT THIS MONEY HAS BEEN PUT TO EFFECTIVE USE AND THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT TUNG TSZ, BOTH IN DORMITORIES AND UNDER CANVAS, IS NOW DOUBLE THAT OF A YEAR AGO.

/+IN ALL THIS .....

+IN ALL THIS IT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SCOUT MOVEMENT CAN ADJUST QUICKLY TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT ITS SERVICES ARE OF GREAT VALUE, AND THAT THIS IS APPRECIATED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY POSSIBLE.

+A GOOD DEAL OF THIS HAS BEEN DUE TO THE HARD WORK, PERSERVERANCE AND IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR OFFICIALS. A NUMBER OF THEM, BOTH LAY MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS, WILL TODAY BE RECEIVING AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LONG AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE MOVEMENT. I AM SURE YOU WILL WISH TO JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THEM HEARTILY ON THEIR AWARDS, WHICH ARE SO WELL DESERVED. I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A LEADING PART IN ENSURING BETTER SCOUTING FOR MORE BOYS IN HONG KONG.

+AND NOW I WISH YOU GOOD SCOUTING IN THE COMING YEAR.+

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HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S ASSURANCE TO CLEANSING WORKERS

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE CLEANSING STAFF WORKING IN ITS GROUP B ESTATES THAT NONE OF THEM WILL HAVE HIS SERVICE TERMINATED AS A RESULT OF THE REORGANISATION OF THE CLEANSING OF THE ESTATE.

THE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT, ARMED FORCES, AND HOSPITALS CHINESE WORKERS UNION CLARIFYING CERTAIN POINTS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING WITH THE UNION'S REPRESENTATIVES ON APRIL 22, 1975.

SPEAKING ON THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THOSE TO BE TRANSFERRED, MR. RICHARD NORMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, SAID THAT THEIR SERVICE WOULD NATURALLY BE CONSIDERED AS CONTINUOUS AND THEY WOULD RETAIN THEIR BASIC PAY AS WELL AS COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.

+THEIR CLAIM FOR THE OBNOXIOUS DUTY ALLOWANCE WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON THE TYPE OF WORK THEY WILL BE ASKED TO DO,+ MR. NORMAN ADDED.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SINCE THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE A SURPLUS OF CLEANSING STAFF AFTER THE REORGANISATION IT WAS IMPRACTICABLE TO CONSIDER EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN GRADUALLY REORGANISING THE CLEANSING OF THE GROUP B ESTATE TO CUT DOWN COSTS.

THE REORGANISATION, WHICH TAKES THE FORM OF SWITCHING THE CLEANSING WORK FROM ITS OWN STAFF TO CONTRACTORS, WILL BE A GRADUAL PROCESS AND WILL PROBABLY EXTEND OVER SEVERAL YEARS.

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PUBLIC FURTHER ADVISED TO PAY ATTENTION TO
PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE
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HEALTH RETURNS FOR MARCH ISSUED TODAY BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHOW A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS OF VIRAL HEPATITIS. A TOTAL OF 160 NOTIFICATIONS WERE RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH, AN INCREASE OF 71 CASES OVER THE PRECEEDING MONTH.

HOWEVER, TYPHOID CASES DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S 69 TO 59.

REPORTS OF CHICKENPOX ROSE FROM 89 IN FEBRUARY TO 108, AND SCARLET FEVER FROM 7 TO 19. THE NUMBER OF BACILLARY DYSENTERY NOTIFICATIONS (26) REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

FOUR CASES OF AMOEBIASES WERE REPORTED, ONE OF CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS AND MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS, SEVEN OF FOOD POISONING, FOUR OF MEASLES, THREE OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, AND ONE OF TETANUS. A TOTAL OF 1,104 NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS WERE RECEIVED.

OF THE 48 DEATHS RECORDED DURING MARCH, 40 WERE CAUSED BY TUBERCULOSIS, FIVE BY VIRAL HEPATITIS, ONE BY AMOEBIASIS, ONE BY CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS AND MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS, AND ONE BY TETANUS.

THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF POLIOMYELITIS, TETANUS NEONATORUM, AND DIPHTHERIA. THE INCIDENCE OF OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SHOWED NO APPRECIABLE VARIATION.

DURING THE MONTH, HONG KONG REMAINED FREE FROM CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

COMMENTING ON THE INCREASE IN VIRAL HEPATITIS NOTIFICATIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE DISEASE, COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WARM WEATHER, IS LIKELY TO FURTHER INCREASE IN THE COMING MONTHS WHEN THE WEATHER GETS WARMER.

HE REPEATED THE ADVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC GIVEN EARLIER BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRICT ADHERENCE TO PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS, WHICH IS MOST ESSENTIAL IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES AND VIRAL HEPATITIS.

AS THE COMMON TYPE OF VIRAL HEPATITIS IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND DRINK, HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS IN THEIR CHOICE OF SUCH.

HE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN EATING CERTAIN ITEMS OF FOOD, SUCH AS SHELLFISH, CUT FRUITS AND +LEUNG FUN+.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC TO STRICTLY OBSERVE SIMPLE RULES OF PERSONAL HYGIENE -- WASHING HANDS BEFORE MEALS AND AFTER VISITS TO TOILETS.

HE WARNED THAT IMPROPERLY COOKED FOOD COULD CAUSE INFECTION, AND FURTHER ADVISED THAT PROPERLY COOKED FOOD, IF NOT EATEN IMMEDIATELY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNCOVERED AND EXPOSED TO CONTAMINATION.

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OVER 98,000 STUDENTS TO SIT FOR S.S.E.E.
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SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 98,000 CANDIDATES HAVE ENTERED TO SIT FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 278 CENTRES ON APRIL 30.

+AS THERE ARE USUALLY AROUND 1,000 ABSENTEES ANNUALLY, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES SITTING FOR THIS EXAMINATION MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE 97,000,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY. LAST YEAR, 93,501 CANDIDATES SAT FOR THIS EXAMINATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE EXACT NUMBER OF FORM 1 PLACES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IS NOT YET KNOWN BUT WILL BE IN THE REGION OF 48,000, COMPARED WITH 46,762 PLACES ALLOCATED IN 1974.

+THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY AFTER THE MIDDLE OF JULY.

+HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ASKED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN CANTON ROAD DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY TO COLLECT COPIES OF THE 'PARENTS' FORM FOR CHOICE OF SCHOOLS, SSEE 1975'.+

THESE FORMS WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THEM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS BY THE SCHOOLS.

PARENTS WHO MAY FIND DIFFICULTY IN FILLING IN THE FORMS ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT THE SCHOOL HEADS OR THE CLASS TEACHERS.

ALL COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOLS BY THE PARENTS BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF MAY.

+ALL ALLOCATION OF PLACES TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE MADE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ACCORDING TO THE PREFERENCES STATED BY THE PARENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

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INVESTIGATION ON BLASTING INCIDENT IN CHAI WAN COMPLETED

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THE MINES DEPARTMENT HAS REVOKED THE BLASTING PERMIT OF THE YUE SHING CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. FOLLOWING A BLAST WHICH INJURED A NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CHAI WAN ON THURSDAY.

FOUR OFFICIALS OF THE COMPANY ARE ON POLICE BAIL AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT ON A SITE NEAR THE COGNITIO COLLEGE.

A MINES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE BLASTING PERMIT HAD BEEN REVOKED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY) AFTER A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATION HAD NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND A REPORT ON THE INCIDENT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE POLICE.

HE SAID THE REPORT WOULD RECOMMEND PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BLASTING PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRED STRICT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT FRAGMENTS OF ROCKS CAUSING DANGER TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY.

IN THIS CASE, THE CONDITIONS HAD INCLUDED:

* THE ERECTION OF A 35-FOOT BLASTING SCREEN AT THE BLAST AREA.

* COVERING OF THE BLASTING HOLES WITH APPROVED MATERIALS TO PREVENT THE PROJECTION QF ROCK FRAGMENTS.

* LIMITATIONS ON THE AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVES THAT CAN BE USED AT ANY ONE INSTANCE.

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COURTESTY CALL ON DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PO LEUNG KUK WILL BE MAKING A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, ON MONDAY (APRIL 28) AT 11.30 A.M. AT LEE GARDENS TO DISCUSS THEIR WORK IN THE WELFARE FIELD.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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ROYAL
VISIT
PRESS
RELEASE

Saturday, April 26, 1975

POLICEWOMAN TO MEET DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Recipient Of Gold Award At Government House Ceremony

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Police woman constable Wong Ki, No. 15646, learned to her surprise today that she is among 27 young people to receive a gold medal from the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Government House on the evening of May 6.

The occasion is the distribution of gold awards in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. In the history of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, this will be the first time that a trainee woman police constable will be receiving it - and from the hands of Prince Philip himself.

When told of her good fortune, Miss Wong could barely conceal her joy and pride but responded with characteristic modesty. "I am honoured," she said. Little did she know that her modesty had been one factor in her being selected as one of the lucky 27.

Miss Wong chose to join the Royal Hong Kong Police Force while still in the middle of her struggle to achieve the gold award.

Now 22, she recalls the time in 1972 when, still a student with the choice of a career dominating the horizon, she found the silver award already in her hands.

/It was then .....

It was then that she made up her mind to proceed for the gold award. "It seemed to beckon, and I simply had to achieve it." she said.

"My interest in community service," she explains, "made it a challenge I simply had to overcome. There was in me an irrisistible impulse to achieve the ultimate. I devoted all my leisure to it.

"When I was told that the tasks to be completed involved an outdoor expedition of 36 miles to be accomplished in three days and four nights almost entirely on my own resources, I trembled at the outcome, but I had to see it through. At that time, it was a formidable undertaking, but in retrospect I feel that I could not serve the community to the best of my ability unless I had done it."

Miss Wong said the tasks leading up to the gold medal had both taxed her patience and her endurance. Had she known that at the end Prince Philip himself would be there to present her with the award, she might have tried harder still.

"But," she said, "the gold medal is its own reward. I would have been happy to receive it by someone else on the Duke's behalf. The Scheme will always be associated with Prince Philip, who both founded the Scheme and has been its inspiration."

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QUEEN TO SEE ONE OI MAN ESTATE FLAT

Problem of Housing Being Energetically Tackled

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The Queen will visit a family in their Oi Man Estate flat when she tours the Hong Kong Housing Authority's newest estate in the heart of Kowloon on the morning of May 5.

The flat is a typical home in the Authority's more recent estates, and looking at it will give the Queen a fair idea of how thousands of Hong Kong families live whose total monthly incomes do not exceed $2,200.

Before calling on the family, the Queen will spend some time touring the estate. She will see some of Oi Man's facilities such as kindergartens, schools, a shopping precinct, market stalls, and playgrounds.

The estate covers a 21-acre site. When fully occupied, it will provide homes for 46,000 people in 6,236 flats. It is one of the Authority's 53 estates, and the second largest after Wah Fu.

Since 1953, when it built the first rudimentary low-rent resettlement blocks to accommodate thousands of homeless squatters, the Hong Kong Government has become the non-profit-making landlord to nearly 1.8 million people, or 44 per cent of the population. But, despite this vast achievement, the problem of housing remains.

To tackle it, the Government, in 1972, announced an ambitious housing programme, and in 1973, appointed a Housing Authority to direct the planning, building, and management of all housing estates in Hong Kong. The Housing Department became the Authority's executive arm.

/The avowed target .....

The avowed target is to build on such a scale that, within 10 years, there will be enough permanent homes, self-contained with good amenities, and in a reasonable environment, for everyone in Hong Kong.

When realised, this will mean the virtual disappearance of squatter areas, and the elimination of overcrowding and sharing. It will also allow for the rehousing of those uprooted by development, and for the homeless and the unfortunate - in all, new homes for another 1.5 million people.

In 1974, 57,949 people were publicly housed. By the time the year ended, 10 estates were in various stages of construction, while 11 others were at an advanced planning stage. These estates will provide 67,700 flats for nearly 473,000 people at an estimated cost of about $1,745 million.

To meet the demands of the 10-year programme, the Authority is seeking more efficient and more economical building methods. It is also giving considerable attention to improved flat design, and a wider range of amenities.

Oi Man, the first estate to be completed within the 10-year programme, has a number of two-bedroom units, a special feature previously unprovided for. Another innovation at this estate is a communal television antenna system designed to eliminate the need for individual aerials.

Again, Oi Man is the first estate which takes account of district needs, that is, the catering of residents in the surrounding area as well as its own tenants. Oi Man has a commercial centre, fully air-conditioned and with shopping arcades, supermarkets, department stores, cafes, restaurants and banks.

/The Authority .....

The Authority intends that where necessary, all new estates will have such commercial centres, and the next to have it will be the Lek Yuen Estate in Sha Tin.

The long-term housing programme will bring improvements to the living conditions of 500,000 people who were rehoused in the early stages of Hong Kong's squatter resettlement operation, between 1954 and 1962.

The first redevelopment scheme is well advanced at Shek Kip Mei where the pioneer resettlement block was built 20 years ago. This will provide greatly improved accommodation for about 60,000 persons, and is now in its third phase.

A similar scheme aimed at providing families with more living space is being planned at the Tai Hang Tung estate, where some 35,000 persons will eventually be housed.

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