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AT HOME IN THE SKY

American adviser to govt expected soon

By Our Correspondent
EDGAR KOH

NEW YORK, Thurs. — A New York institutional investment officer, Mr Douglas Salmond, is expected to arrive in Singapore on Oct 17 to be an adviser to the recently set up Government of Singapore Investment Corporation.

He was hired by the corporation's head, Mr Yong Pung How, through a US executive placement service in a recruitment drive earlier this year.

A Harvard College and Harvard Business School graduate, he has over 10 years' experience as an investment officer with the College Retirement Equities Fund, headquartered in New York.

He was for five years the Fund's investment officer handling portfolios in Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and other Asian and Pacific countries.

Met PM

In his new job as senior investment officer, Mr Salmond will look after the GSIC's investments in Japan.

He has already visited Singapore thrice, and has met Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew about the job offer more than two months ago.

On his last day with the Fund yesterday, he said: "I'm looking forward to this exciting job. It's a new challenge, a new environment. I know I can do the job. It will be a different experience."

The Equities Fund and its sister organisation, the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, form one of America's top 20 institutional investment corporations.

Assets

They provide retirement and group insurance plans for employees of nearly 3,500 US colleges, universities, independent schools and related non-profit research organisations and educational associations.

At the end of last year, their combined assets, representing funds set aside by participants and their employing institutions to support future benefits, totalled US$18.4 billion (S$39.7 billion).

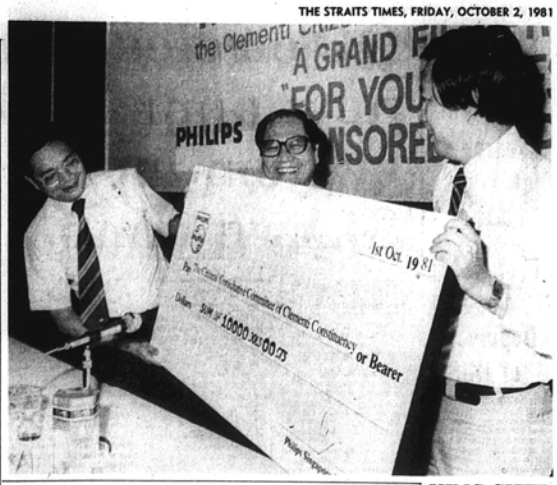
Their current worth is estimated at over US$20 billion.

Nearly US$6.3 million of this is invested in Singapore and Malaysia, with the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation, Malayan Banking Berhad and Development Bank of Singapore topping the list of receipients.

Trader hit mart owner

FISH dealer Edward Gan Eng Teck, 45, a former police officer, was fined $750 by District Judge Dalip Singh yesterday after he pleaded guilty to hurting market owner Lim Hock Chiang, 54.

Mr Lim was hospitalised for 12 days after he was punched by Gan in Hup Hoi Market in Buona Vista Road on Feb 23, 1979. The two men had quarrelled because Gan's friend, a hawker, was evicted from Mr Lim's market earlier.



Second language exams

Students who have lived abroad may be exempted

YOUNG Singaporeans who have spent at least three consecutive years abroad may be exempted from taking second language examinations at Primary Six, 'O' and 'A'-level when they return to school here.

However this applies only to children of Singaporeans who are based abroad.

Exemption is granted only if the Education Ministry is satisfied that the children will not be able to cope with the second language.

The ministry will examine their academic records, the home language situation and the opportunities they had to study the second language while abroad.

Even if they are exempted from the examinations, these students will be expected to attend second language classes in school.

This means, for example, if a boy has been exempted from taking a second language at the Primary School Leaving Examination but has to offer the subject at the GCE 'O' and 'A' levels, he, under special circumstances, may re-apply to the ministry to be exempted from offering it at the higher level examinations.

In place of the second language, he must either take a foreign language or another subject. This will be decided by the student in consultations with his principal.

Since the National University of Singapore specifies that applicants must have at least a passing grade of E8 in their second language, the ministry will provide such people with statements explaining why they had been exempted from offering the second language and which subject they took in lieu of it.

Familiar

The ministry's stand, earliest guidelines of which were issued in 1975, would serve to put at ease Singaporeans thinking of going abroad for a few years but are worried about their children's education.

The ministry official said foreigners who come here to study may also be exempted from taking the second language at school examinations for the same reasons.

Thais, for example, have less background in Mandarin than Malaysians who are more familiar with the language. Similarly, Singaporeans stationed in countries like Hongkong and Taiwan would have greater exposure to Mandarin.

All cases, the official stressed, are considered on an individual basis "for the good of the pupil and for bilingualism".

Mind the trees!

THIS is one of the six latest road signs being tried out by the Public Works Department.

It is about one-metre high and has a round orange reflector 15 to 23 cm in diameter.

A Ministry of National Development spokesman said the sign is to warn motorists of trees and road dividers at night.

KING-SIZED BOOST FOR CLEMENTI PROJECT

IT WAS all smiles yesterday when this king-sized cheque for $10,000 was presented to MP for Clementi, Mr Bernard Chen (left), as part of Philips Singapore's contribution to the Clementi Citizens' Consultative Committee.

Chairman of the Clementi CCC, Dr Lee Ngak Siang (centre), gave a helping hand in receiving the enlarged version of the Philips cheque from Mr Victor Loh, commercial director with Philips, in a ceremony yesterday at King's Hotel.

The Clementi CCC is also organising a film premiere featuring the James Bond film, For Your Eyes Only, on Oct 21 at the Lido Theatre with Philips as sponsor.

Dr Lee said the CCC hopes to raise $50,000 for its education and welfare funds.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Chen, the adviser to the CCC, said the Clementi community centre will set up an additional temporary centre at Block 225 by November, to run a day-care centre for children and an old folks' club.

Chung Hwa's 70th year

CHUNG HWA Girls' High School will hold a students' handiwork exhibition tomorrow to celebrate the school's 70th anniversary and to raise funds to renovate the school canteen.

The wife of the Senior Minister of State (Prime Minister's Office), Mrs Lee Khoon Choy, will officiate at the opening at 9 a.m.

Food firm fined $500

CHYE SOON Foodstuffs Manufacturing Pte Ltd was fined $500 for selling bee hoon (vermicelli) containing excessive sulphur dioxide through its agent.

The company admitted selling the food through agent, Soh Tuan Heng, at Teck Rock Lane on June 26. The bee hoon contained 488 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.

Special centres for hardcore addicts soon?

By PAUL WEE
Crime Desk

SPECIAL "segregation" centres to rehabilitate hardcore drug addicts may soon be set up by the government to check the relapse rate among these addicts.

The new rehabilitation scheme has been finalised by the Home Ministry which is apparently unhappy with the present programme.

Under the present scheme, drug addicts, irrespective of whether they are new addicts or repeat cases, are placed under the same rehabilitation programme in the four drug rehabilitation centres.

Group therapy

This is considered unsatisfactory as hardcore addicts will not benefit from the rehabilitation treatment that new addicts undergo. Another fear is that new drug abusers may be influenced by the hardcore addicts.

Sources said yesterday that under the proposed "segregation" plan, hardcore addicts would be separated from the other abusers.

They would also undergo a new method of treatment which is akin to the group therapy practised by other groups like Weight-Watchers or Alcoholics Anonymous.

This new method, known as the psychotherapeutic approach, was found suitable for the rehabilitation of hardcore abusers after a thorough study by the Home Ministry together with the Central Narcotics Bureau, prison authorities and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association.

Full details, it is understood, will be announced by the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Chua Sian Chin, later this week.

Curbed

Sources disclosed yesterday that the authorities were concerned about the high incidence of relapse cases although the drug situation was well under control.

Out of the 13,000 known drug addicts, about 5,583 are said to be "active" with 3,095 of them undergoing treatment at the four DRCs and the remaining 2,488 under compulsory supervision.

At least 40 per cent of addicts sent for treatment are known to have undergone treatment before.

With the introduction of the "segregation" rehabilitation programme, the authorities hope that the rate of relapse will be curbed even further.

Coin auction

THE Singapore Numismatic Association will hold a coin auction at the National Library's lecture hall on Sunday at 10 a.m.

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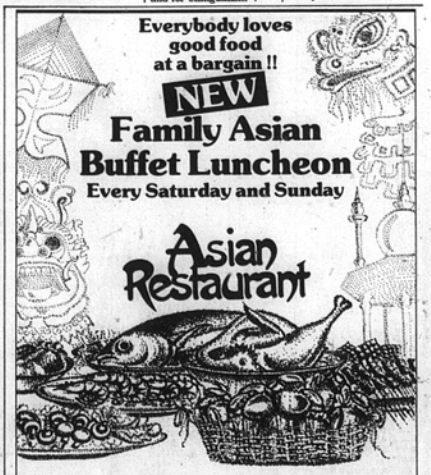

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