



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1977

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A LOT MORE RAIN NEEDED TO
STAVE OFF FURTHER RESTRICTIONS

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THE RAIN OF THE PAST 24 HOURS HAS ADDED 389 MILLION GALLONS TO HONG KONG'S DEPLETED WATER RESERVES - THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT ONE-AND-A-HALF DAY'S CONSUMPTION.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER, MR. TOM TOMLINSON, SAID TODAY THAT IN THE 24 HOURS UP TO 9 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAD RECORDED ABOUT 80 MM OF RAIN.

+THE SAME AMOUNT FELL ON PLOVER COVE CATCHMENT,+ HE SAID, +BUT UNFORTUNATELY TWO OF THE OTHER BIGGEST RESERVOIRS - SHEK PIK ON LANTAU AND TAI LAM CHUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES - RECORDED LESS THAN A QUARTER OF THIS AMOUNT.+

MR. TOMLINSON SAID THAT SINCE WATER RESTRICTIONS WERE INTRODUCED ON JUNE 1, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAD RECORDED A TOTAL OF 167.9 MM OF RAIN, AND THIS HAD PRODUCED A YIELD OF ABOUT 1000 MILLION GALLONS.

+THIS IS NOT MUCH MORE THAN FOUR DAYS' CONSUMPTION UNDER THE PRESENT RESTRICTIONS ON SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

AT 9 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING THE WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT'S 17 RESERVOIRS HELD A TOTAL OF 29,761 MILLION GALLONS, WHICH IS 44.2 PER CENT OF THEIR TOTAL CAPACITY.

+WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE WATER IN STORAGE THAN THIS IF WE ARE TO STAVE OFF FURTHER RESTRICTIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR. TOMLINSON SAID THAT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR THE AMOUNT OF WATER IN STORAGE HAD BEEN 53,240 MILLION GALLONS - OR 79.1 PER CENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY DROP

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR MAY WERE 115 AND 116 - A DROP OF 2 POINTS AND 1 POINT RESPECTIVELY.

INDEX (A) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400-\$1,499 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1973/74 AND INDEX (B) IS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1,500-\$2,999 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1973/74.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WAS 3 POINTS LOWER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH IN BOTH INDEXES (A) AND (B). REDUCTIONS IN AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH WATER FISH, PORK AND FRESH VEGETABLES MORE THAN OFFSET RISES FOR MEALS BOUGHT AWAY FROM HOME AND FOR SALT WATER FISH.

INCREASES OF 1 POINT EACH WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, AND CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN BOTH INDEXES (A) AND (B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES FOR CHINESE WINES, IMPORTED CIGARETTES AND SOME OUTERCLOTHING ITEMS. THE INDEX FOR SERVICES IN INDEX (B) WENT UP BY 1 POINT FOLLOWING HIGHER CHARGES FOR CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT, DOMESTIC HELP AND HAIRDRESSING.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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SURVEY OF OPTICIANS AND OPTOMETRISTS

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS URGED THOSE WHO ARE EITHER ENGAGED OR EMPLOYED IN OPTOMETRY OR OPTICAL FIRMS AND HAD NOT YET RETURNED COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO THEM LAST YEAR TO DO SO NOW.

THEY SHOULD SEND THEM TO THE SECRETARY (BOARDS) AT BONAVENTURE HOUSE, 91, LEIGHTON ROAD, THIRD FLOOR, NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID THE QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT OUT IN 1976 TO ALL OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTICAL FIRMS TO ASSESS EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS, LINGUISTIC ABILITY, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF THOSE EMPLOYED IN THIS FIELD.

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TOURISTS ASKED TO SAVE THEIR BIT

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IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT WATER SHORTAGE TOURISTS ARE ALSO URGED TO ECONOMISE ON WATER CONSUMPTION DURING THEIR STAY.

THE HONG KONG HOTELS ASSOCIATION HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS TO CHANNEL THE SAVE WATER MESSAGE TO TOURISTS.

APART FROM POSTERS AND STICKERS WHICH HAD BEEN PUT UP IN APPROPRIATE PLACES IN VARIOUS HOTELS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PREPARED SPECIAL DISPLAY CARDS IN FOLDERS CONTAINING HELPFUL HINTS ON WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER AS AN EFFORT TO COMPLEMENT THE ASSOCIATION'S VOLUNTARY MOVE.

WITH THE MESSAGE IN CHINESE, ENGLISH AND JAPANESE PRINTED IN SHADES OF BLUE, THESE DISPLAY CARDS FOR HOTEL GUESTS WOULD SERVE TO ALERT TOURISTS TO HONG KONG'S CURRENT WATER SHORTAGE, THE HOURS OF RESTRICTION AND AT THE SAME TIME SOLICIT THEIR CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

ILLUSTRATED BY CARTOON DRAWINGS, THE FOUR MAJOR SAVE WATER TIPS INCORPORATED IN THE FOLDER WOULD AIM AT ASKING HOTEL GUESTS TO TAKE A SHOWER RATHER THAN A BATH, NOT TO LEAVE THE TAP RUNNING WHILE WASHING THEIR HANDS AND CLEANING THEIR TEETH, TO SAVE UP THEIR SMALLS FOR A BIGGER WASH AND TO ENSURE THAT THEY TURN OFF TAPS IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE.

ANOTHER STOCK OF 300,000 CARDS BEARING A GENERAL SAVE-WATER MESSAGE ALSO IN CHINESE, ENGLISH AND JAPANESE WOULD BE HANDED OUT TO VISITORS ARRIVING AT KAI TAK AIRPORT VIA THE IMMIGRATION COUNTERS.

AS ARRIVALS AT KAI TAK WOULD PROBABLY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT OUR WATER SITUATION, THESE CARDS WOULD EXPLAIN TO THEM WHY WATER RESTRICTION HAD BEEN IMPOSED IN HONG KONG, AND THAT THEIR CO-OPERATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY WOULD BE ESSENTIAL.

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GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT RETIRES

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MR. DENNIS JOHNSTON, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, IS TO RETIRE AFTER 18 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

ABOUT 100 OF HIS COLLEAGUES FROM THE NTA HEADQUARTERS AND THE SEVEN DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES GATHERED AT THE ADMINISTRATION'S HEADQUARTERS TODAY (THURSDAY) TO GIVE HIM A FAREWELL.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES PRESENTED MR. JOHNSTON WITH A ROSEWOOD SERVING TROLLEY AS A FAREWELL GIFT FROM HIS NTA COLLEAGUES.

MR. JOHNSTON - WHOSE CAREER IN GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE SPANS 27 YEARS - WILL START PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE TOMORROW (JUNE 24).

MR. JOHNSTON FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG IN 1946 WITH THE ROYAL NAVY. HE SPENT HIS NAVAL SERVICE IN THE FAR EAST.

HE RETURNED TO HONG KONG IN 1959 AND JOINED THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT AS AN ESTATE SURVEYOR AND BECAME CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON, PARTICULARLY IN KWUN TONG.

FROM 1963 TO 1966, HE WORKED AS A PLANNING OFFICER AND SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER ON PROGRAMMES IN BOTH THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AFTER THESE, HE SPENT FOUR YEARS AS SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR IN THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND BECAME INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SETTING UP AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS.

IN 1970 HE RETURNED TO THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT AS A CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LAND SALE PROGRAMME INVOLVING LARGE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CENTRAL AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON.

HE CAME BACK TO THE NTA IN 1973 TO HEAD ITS LANDS DIVISION AND WAS APPOINTED PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT WHEN THE POST WAS UPGRADED LAST YEAR.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWNS AND THE MARKET TOWNS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND A NUMBER OF LARGE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AT TAI PO AND YUEN LONG.

OUTSIDE OF HIS CAREER, MR. JOHNSTON IS WIDELY KNOWN FOR HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN RUGBY, THE ROUND TABLE AND THE MARINE POLICE.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED AT THE NTA BY MR. P.A. WARD, WHO WAS FORMERLY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT (VALUATION) IN THE LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF THE PWD.

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NEW HAWKER PERMITTED AREAS IN SHEUNG WAN

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FIXED PITCH HAWKING WILL BE PERMITTED IN CLEVERLY STREET, SHEUNG WAN, FROM MONDAY (JUNE 27).

THIS WILL ENABLE SEVEN LICENSED FIXED PITCH HAWKERS TO TRADE IN THE AREA WHICH EXTENDS TO THE SECTION BETWEEN WING LOK STREET AND BONHAM STRAND EAST.

THE DECLARATION OF THE HAWKER PERMITTED AREA IS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT UNDER A SECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

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WORK CAMP FOR YOUTH

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THE AKINALLIANCE, A YOUTH GROUP SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH WORK UNIT, WILL ORGANISE TWO WORK CAMPS AT PING SHAN CHILDREN'S HOME NEXT MONTH.

THE TWO FIVE-DAY CAMPS, STARTING FROM JULY 23 AND JULY 27, AIM TO HELP THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THEIR SUMMER VACATION.

THEY WILL HELP IN RENOVATING THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORGANISE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE CHILDREN.

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL BE CHARGED \$20 FOR FOOD AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

THOSE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THE CAMP ARE ASKED TO APPLY AT THE YOUTH WORK UNIT AT THE KOWLOON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 405, NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON.

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