



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1974.

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1974.

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COMMUNITY MUST SHARE EFFORT TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS,
SAYS GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY URGED NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR DISTRICTS +AND NOT LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE GOVERNMENT.+

+VERY OFTEN,+ HE SAID, +LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS IS THE BEST WAY OF GETTING THINGS DONE.+

SIR MURRAY WAS SPEAKING TO RURAL COMMITTEE LEADERS OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT DURING A VISIT TO THE RURAL COMMITTEE'S NEW PREMISES, AS PART OF A TOUR OF SAI KUNG PENINSULA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. CLIVE OXLEY.

THE GOVERNOR INDICATED THAT SAI KUNG, WHICH NOW HAS ONLY ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL, COULD LOOK FORWARD TO A SECOND ONE. THE RURAL COMMITTEE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL, HE SAID, HAD ENCOURAGED THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT.

SIR MURRAY ALSO TOURED SAI KUNG TOWN AND HAD A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME REHOUSING BLOCK. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE CO-OPERATION OF THE VILLAGERS AFFECTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, AND SAID HE WAS SURE THEY REALISED THAT THE SCHEME WAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

EARLIER, THE GOVERNOR ATTENDED THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE SUNG TSUN MIDDLE SCHOOL WHERE HE EMPHASISED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THREE YEARS OF SUBSIDISED SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG.

THE EFFORT, HE SAID, WOULD BE VERY GREAT, INVOLVING NEW CURRICULA, NEW ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL TIME, MANY MORE TEACHERS, NEW PRESSURE ON SCHOOL BOARDS AND HEADMASTERS, +BUT IT IS AN OBJECTIVE WHICH IS INFINITELY WORTHWHILE AND ONE WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE PROVIDED OUR EFFORTS ARE UNITED.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S TWO SPEECHES ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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GREATER CO-OPERATION IN EDUCATION SERVICES NEEDED

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A CALL FOR GREATER UNITY OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND GREATER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ALL PARTIES IN THE EDUCATION SERVICE WAS MADE BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. CHARLES LOWE, AT THE SPEECH DAY OF LA SALLE COLLEGE THIS EVENING.

MR. LOWE WAS ECHOING THE CALL IN AN ARTICLE IN AN ENGLISH EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL BY A FAMOUS EDUCATIONIST, LORD ALEXANDER.

+THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN HONG KONG IF WE ARE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE WHITE PAPER. IT WILL MAKE A TREMENDOUS CHANGE IN OUR SCHOOLS BUT WE MUST NOT LET THE FAINT HEARTS ANXIOUS FOR ANY EXCUSE TO DUCK THE ISSUE, CONFUSE THE BASIC DECISION TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS OR OPT OUT BY CONCENTRATING THEIR FIRE ON THE OTHER ISSUES RAISED IN THE WHITE PAPER,+ MR. LOWE SAID.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WHITE PAPER MUST BE PURSUED WITH VIGOUR AND DETERMINATION BY THE SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

HE EMPHASISED : +IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE, IF NOT CRIMINAL, TO BE TURNED AWAY BY CRITICISM OF PARTS OF THE WHITE PAPER FROM THE MAJOR AIM OF PROVIDING PUBLIC SECTOR PLACES FOR 100 PER CENT OF THE 12-14 AGE GROUP IN FORMS 1 TO 3 AND FOR 40 PER CENT OF THE 15-16 AGE GROUP IN FORMS 4 AND 5 IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME SCALE, THAT IS BY 1979.

+IT IS IN A SENSE AN EMERGENCY AND MUST BE GIVEN EMERGENCY IMPLEMENTATION. IN THE 1970'S WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SAY THAT THE BIRTHRIGHT OF EVERY CHILD IS LIMITED TO SIX YEARS OF BASIC EDUCATION AND THAT OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS MUST BE RESERVED FOR THE ABLE OR THE WEALTHY.+

MR. LOWE ADMITTED THAT THE PLAN HAD ITS DIFFICULTIES - THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, THE REPLACEMENT OF S.S.E.E. AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION.

BUT, HE POINTED OUT, THE WHITE PAPER WAS NOT AND NEVER WAS INTENDED TO BE A DETAILED BLUE PRINT.

+IT IS A STATEMENT OF AIMS WITH CLEAR INDICATIONS OF THE LINES ALONG WHICH THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. OBVIOUSLY BETWEEN NOW AND 1982, NEEDS AND PROBLEMS WILL HAVE CHANGED, THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE NOR DO I FEEL THE STRIDENT CRIES OF OUR LIBERAL EDUCATIONISTS FOR COMPULSION CARRY WEIGHT. COMPULSION IS NOT THE HONG KONG WAY. IT IS NOT THE EDUCATION WAY EITHER,+ MR. LOWE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS MOST DIFFICULT BUT IT WAS NOT REALLY A QUESTION OF EITHER OR.

/+IT GOES DEEPER.

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+IT GOES DEEPER. STREAMS WITHIN A SCHOOL WILL HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS. SHOULD AS MUCH ENGLISH BE USED IN FORM 1 AS IN FORM 3? I DO NOT THINK SO. CERTAIN SUBJECTS CAN BE BETTER TAUGHT IN ENGLISH THAN OTHERS, SCIENCE RATHER THAN ARTS SUBJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE.+

ON THE ABOLITION OF THE S.S.E.E., MR. LOWE SAID : +I AGREE THAT WE ARE THROWING AWAY A SELECTION SYSTEM WHICH IS FAIR AND MAKING SELECTION MORE DIFFICULT AND OPEN TO QUESTION. NEVERTHELESS, ABOLITION IS A POLITICAL NECESSITY AND WE HAVE OUTGROWN S.S.E.E.

+INCIDENTALLY A WORKING PARTY IS BEING SET UP OF OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TEACHERS AND HEADS, AND HOPEFULLY WITH LAY REPRESENTATION, TO WORK OUT THE BEST WAY OF PROCEEDING. I THINK THAT ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES, PROBABLY ZONAL, CAN BE DEvised TO REPLACE S.S.E.E. WE HAVE THREE YEARS TO DO IT.

+WE HAVE SIX YEARS TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF THE FORM 3 SELECTION. IN EIGHT YEARS WE MAY HAVE GOT A HIGHER PULLTHROUGH RATE INTO FORM 4 WHICH WILL TAKE OUT MUCH OF THE HEAT. I ENTIRELY AGREE THAT THIS EXAMINATION MUST NOT BE A MINI CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION.+

OFFERING TWO PIECES OF ADVICE TO THE PUPILS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOLD THEM NEVER TO FORGET THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AFTER THEY HAD LEFT SCHOOL AND MORALITY GIVEN THEM BY THEIR SCHOOL, LA SALLE.

+NEVER SIT DOWN AND GRUMBLE IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG. WHY DON'T THEY (USUALLY THE GOVERNMENT) DO THIS OR THAT? THINK FOR AN HOUR ABOUT THE BEST MEANS TO ADOPT THEN SET ABOUT PUTTING IT RIGHT YOURSELVES.

+MANY PEOPLE LIKE TO KEEP AWAY FROM GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THIS IS WRONG. SEE THE OFFICIAL ACROSS THE DESK AND POLITELY ARGUE THE CASE. THIS IS WORTH 20 LETTERS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND 20 MORE TO THE NEWSPAPER.+

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DRY WEATHER INCREASES FIRE DANGER
PUBLIC URGED TO EXERCISE EXTREME CARE

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THE EXCEPTIONALLY DRY WEATHER HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE DANGER OF FIRE, AND THE COMMUNITY IS WARNED TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH ANYTHING THAT MAY CAUSE FIRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT WHEN THE HUMIDITY DROPS BELOW 60 PER CENT EVERYTHING WHICH WILL BURN, BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS, BECOMES TINDER DRY. +AS A RESULT, FIRES ARE STARTED MORE EASILY AND SPREAD FASTER.+

DURING DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS THE FIRE SERVICES RECEIVE TWICE TO FIVE TIMES AS MANY CALLS AS DURING WET PERIODS.

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF HEEDING FIRE WARNINGS, THE SPOKESMAN LISTED A FEW SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS WHICH COULD HELP AVOID A DISASTER.

- * TAKE CARE IN HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS, MATCHES, CANDLES AND JOSS STICKS.
- * DON'T OVERLOAD ELECTRICITY CIRCUITS BY PLUGGING TOO MANY APPLIANCES INTO ONE SOCKET. THIS COULD CAUSE THE WIRING TO OVERHEAT.
- * TAKE CARE WHEN USING KEROSENE FOR COOKING, HEATING OR LIGHTING.
- * AT WORK, MAKE SURE THAT MACHINES ARE KEPT CLEAN AND ARE NOT ALLOWED TO OVERHEAT.
- * BE EXTRA CAREFUL WITH LIGHTED MATERIALS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT THE YELLOW WARNING MEANT THE DANGER OF FIRE WAS HIGH WHILE THE RED WARNING SPELT EXTREME DANGER.

+IF EVERYONE, IN HIS OWN AND HIS NEIGHBOUR'S INTEREST, RESPONDS TO THESE WARNINGS BY TAKING PRECAUTIONS AND BE ON THEIR GUARD, LIFE AND PROPERTY WILL BE SAVED.+

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BEWARE OF UNVENTILATED HEATED BATHROOMS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE VENTILATION IN BATHROOMS WHERE GAS WATER HEATERS ARE USED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WARNED IT WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO BATHE IN UNVENTILATED BATHROOMS HEATED BY GAS, AND POINTED OUT THAT THREE PEOPLE HAD DIED AND TEN OTHERS INJURED EARLIER THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF BATHING IN POORLY OR UNVENTILATED BATHROOMS.

+WHETHER THE CASUALTIES WERE OVERCOME BY GAS LEAKING FROM A DEFECTIVE APPLIANCE OR THROUGH LACK OF OXYGEN, THE DEATHS AND INJURIES WOULD MOST PROBABLY NOT HAVE OCCURRED HAD THERE BEEN PROPER VENTILATION,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE ADVENT OF COOLER WEATHER, THE PUBLIC WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION, HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SIMILAR WARNINGS HAD BEEN ISSUED IN THE PAST BUT DEATHS AND INJURIES STILL OCCURRED, OFTEN IN CUBICLES WHERE HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS HAD BEEN INSTALLED. IN SOME CASES, HE ADDED, NO PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR VENTILATION SUCH AS DOOR LOUVERS OR OPEN AIR VENTILATION WHEN THE HEATERS WERE INSTALLED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO AVOID USING SUCH PLACES AS THEY WERE RISKY. +PEOPLE OBVIOUSLY NEED PRIVACY WHILE BATHING, BUT VENTILATION WHICH IN NO WAY AFFECTS PRIVACY CAN EASILY BE PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

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CALL FOR EVERYONE TO JOIN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON EVERYONE TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT DRUG-ADDICTION.

HE SAID IF WE ALL DID THIS IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REALLY MAKE HONG KONG DRUG FREE.

MR. LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF THE SALESIAN SCHOOL AND CALLED THE ATTENTION OF THE STUDENTS TO THE DANGERS OF DRUG-ADDICTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONCE A PERSON BECOMES ADDICTED HE WILL DETERIORATE PHYSICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY ENDING UP AS A BURDEN ON AND CAUSING SUFFERING TO HIS FAMILY AND OTHERS AROUND HIM.

NOT ONLY THAT, MR. LEE SAID, DRUG-ADDICTION ALSO HAS ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIETY. IT IS VERY COSTLY TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE UNPRODUCTIVE AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AND RUN PRISONS.

HE SAID THERE ARE ALREADY MANY THEORIES ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE CAUSES OF DRUG-ADDICTION AND PEOPLE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR MORE.

THE PERSONALITY THEORY SUGGESTS THAT PEOPLE WITH WEAK PERSONALITIES ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DRUG-ADDICTION AS A FORM OF ESCAPE WHILE SOCIOLOGIST WOULD CONSIDER DRUG-ADDICTION AS A FORM OF SUB-CULTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOCIAL WORKERS MAY LOOK AT THIS PROBLEM AS A SYMPTOM OF SOCIETAL ILLNESS AND THE MAN-IN-THE STREET USUALLY REGARDS +UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES+ AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THIS VICE.

WHICHEVER THE CASE, HE POINTED OUT, AS SOON AS A MAN BECOMES ADDICTED TO DANGEROUS DRUGS, HIS PERSONAL BUSINESS ON GETTING ADDICTED WILL BECOME OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS, BECAUSE HIS HABITS AND THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUGS ON HIS HEALTH OBLIGE HIM TO RELY ON OTHERS, INITIALLY HIS FAMILY, THEN HIS RELATIVES, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND LATER ON ANYBODY WHOM HE CAN ASK FOR HELP.

MR. LEE SAID BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OVER THE DRUG-ADDICTION PROBLEM THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TOGETHER WITH THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAVE ORGANISED A KEEP HONG KONG DRUG FREE CAMPAIGN.

THIS CAMPAIGN, HE SAID, WAS AN APPEAL TO TEACHERS, PARENTS, EMPLOYERS AND STUDENTS ALIKE, TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO ALL THAT THEY COME INTO CONTACT WITH ABOUT THE TREMENDOUS HARM THAT DRUGS CAN DO AND TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.

+WE MUST ALL REALISE THAT DRUG-ADDICTION IS NOT JUST THE DRUG ADDICTS' OWN BUSINESS BUT IT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS. IT IS NOT THEREFORE OUR DUTY TO TRY OUR VERY BEST TO PREVENT THIS VICE FROM PERMEATING FURTHER INTO OUR SOCIETY BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS? WE SHALL BE FAILING IN OUR DUTY AS CITIZENS OF HONG KONG IF WE ALLOW OUR FRIENDS, THROUGH IGNORANCE, TO BE VICTIMIZED BY THIS DREADFUL DISEASE.+

MRS. LEE PRESENTED PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES TO THE STUDENTS.

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HONG KONG DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE ON TALL BUILDINGS

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HONG KONG WILL BE REPRESENTED AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS TO BE HELD IN CAIRO IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE CONFERENCE IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON TALL BUILDINGS — AN INTERNATIONAL BODY SPONSORED BY ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING PROFESSIONALS. ITS FUNCTION IS TO STUDY AND REPORT ON ALL THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND OPERATION OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS.

REPRESENTING HONG KONG AT THE FIVE-DAY MEETING WILL BE MR. EDWARD KENNARD, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR.

COMMENTING ON THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE, MR. KENNARD SAID TODAY THAT EVER SINCE THE JOINT COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN 1969, HONG KONG HAD PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ITS FUNCTIONS.

+IT IS ONLY NATURAL,+ HE SAID, +THAT HONG KONG, WHICH HAS BEEN FORCED TO BUILD HIGH BUILDINGS IN THE URBAN AREAS BECAUSE OF ITS SHORTAGE OF LAND STEMMING FROM THE URBAN EXPLOSION, SHOULD ASSOCIATE ITSELF ENERGETICALLY WITH THIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORT.

+OUR EXPERIENCE OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS MEANS THAT WE HAVE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. AND OF COURSE WE DERIVE CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT OURSELVES FROM THESE EXCHANGES, BY TAPPING THE EXPERIENCES AND EXPERTISE OF OUR COLLEAGUES ROUND THE WORLD.+

THE JOINT COMMITTEE DRAWS ITS MEMBERS FROM MORE THAN 60 COUNTRIES, 300 CITIES, 600 ORGANISATIONS AND AT LEAST 15 PROFESSIONS.

ONE OF ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES IS THE COMPILATION OF A MONOGRAPH, OR PROFESSIONAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA, OF KNOWLEDGE ON TALL BUILDINGS, AND THE DATA FOR THIS IS GATHERED THROUGH THE STUDIES AND MEETINGS OF MORE THAN 50 SPECIALIST COMMITTEES AND THROUGH FREQUENT REGIONAL CONFERENCES.

MR. KENNARD, WHO IS A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND OWNERSHIP ASPECTS OF TALL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD FROM JANUARY 6 TO JANUARY 11.

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LIFTS NOT OPERATING

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ALL SIX LIFTS IN BLOCK 23 OF TUNG TAU ESTATE WERE OUT OF ACTION THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING DUE TO THE UNSATISFACTORY SERVICE OF THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR.

AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SOUGHT AND OBTAINED IMMEDIATE SERVICE FROM THE SUB-CONTRACTOR WHO MANAGED TO BRING FOUR OF THE LIFTS BACK INTO SERVICE SHORTLY AFTER NOON.

THE OTHER TWO WILL BE REPAIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTING ON THE BREAKDOWN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THIS WAS DUE TO POOR SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS AND THE UNSATISFACTORY SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTOR. IN FACT, ONE OF THE LIFTS HAD BEEN OUT OF SERVICE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BECAUSE THE NECESSARY SPARE PARTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

+THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAD INSTRUCTED THE MAIN CONTRACTOR TO AIRFREIGHT THE NECESSARY SPARE PARTS FROM ITALY AS FAR BACK AS JULY FOR THE REPAIR OF THIS PARTICULAR LIFT.

+SUBSEQUENTLY IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT SPARE PARTS FOR THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF THE OTHER LIFTS BE FLOWN OUT AS WELL WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE LIFT COMPANY CONCERNED HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MAINTENANCE OF THESE SIX LIFTS IN THE PAST WEEK OR TWO APPEARS TO HAVE DECLINED FURTHER DUE TO A LABOUR DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MAIN CONTRACTOR AND HIS SUB-CONTRACTOR.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE TO TENANTS, HAS AGREED TO PAY THE SUB-CONTRACTOR DIRECT FOR THE REPAIR OF THESE LIFTS.

AT PRESENT, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT ABLE TO EMPLOY A DIFFERENT CONTRACTOR BECAUSE THE LIFTS NEED SPARE PARTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE MAIN CONTRACTOR WHO IS ALSO THE SOLE SUPPLIER.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN THINKING OF REPLACING THESE LIFTS A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO BUT WHEN THE CONTRACTOR ASSURED IT WOULD IMPROVE ITS SERVICE, IT WAS DECIDED TO GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE STAFF OF TUNG TAU ESTATE ARE GIVING EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO TENANTS WHO, UNFORTUNATELY, ARE AFFECTED BY THIS BREAKDOWN.

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CAUSEWAY BAY TRAFFIC CHANGES

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT OWING TO PREVAILING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE JUNCTION OF TUNG LO WAN ROAD AND TAI HANG ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO INTRODUCE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT TEMPORARY CHANGES IN ROUTING FOR TURNING MOVEMENTS AT THIS JUNCTION.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE SHORT CENTRE LANE BETWEEN THE TWO TRAFFIC ISLANDS AT THE JUNCTION, WHICH WAS HITHERTO USED BY TRAFFIC COMING DOWN TAI HANG ROAD, HAS NOW BEEN RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

THIS CENTRE LANE WILL NOW SERVE EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON TUNG LO WAN ROAD TURNING RIGHT INTO TAI HANG ROAD.

IN ADDITION, MOTORISTS TRAVELLING DOWN TAI HANG ROAD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT INTO TUNG LO WAN ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION DINNER

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DR. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WILL SPEAK ON THE DRUG SITUATION IN HONG KONG DURING THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE PENINSULA HOTEL.

THE FULL TEXT OF DR. CHOA'S SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO REPORTERS AT THE HOTEL BEFORE DINNER BEGINS.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (THURSDAY) STOOD AT 54,340 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 80.7 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 58,121 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 38,691 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 45,428 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 76.6 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

NO 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 2,112.3 MM (83.16 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,129.5 MM (83.84 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 0.8 PER CENT.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON :

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	1.89
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.73
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.77
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.68
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	-
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.39
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.72
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.91
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.88
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	340 (CAVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	6.00	2.00	4.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.30	1.60	2.40
SQUID	LIMITED	4.00	2.50	3.70
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.40	1.00	1.70
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.60	1.20	2.40
CROAKERS	NORMAL	2.70	0.90	1.80
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	3.60	1.50	2.50
MELON COAT	GOOD	2.60	1.00	2.00
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.80	4.00	5.00
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.80	1.60	1.20
MACKERELS	NORMAL	5.80	3.00	4.40
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	2.50	1.20	1.80
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.00	0.60	0.80
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	7.00	3.50	5.20
MELON SEED	NORMAL	3.00	1.40	2.20
POHFRETS	SCARCE	11.00	5.50	8.20
GARUPAS	LIMITED	8.00	6.00	7.00
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	6.50	5.50	6.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	3.20	1.00	2.50
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	2.20	0.80	1.80
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	2.20	0.80	1.60
WATER SPINACH	SCARCE	0.60	0.40	0.50
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	3.20	1.00	2.50
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	2.40	1.80	2.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	SCARCE	4.00	1.50	3.00
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	3.20	1.80	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.20	0.60	1.40
CHINESE SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.20	2.50	3.50