



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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**PROPER ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PLANNED
FOR ALL EXISTING LICENSED AREAS
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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING AN OVERHEAD POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED IN ALL EXISTING LICENSED AREAS.

A PILOT SCHEME FOR THIS PROJECT, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO., WILL BE INSTALLED SOON IN CHEUNG SHA WAN LICENSED AREA 3 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

FINANCIAL APPROVAL FOR THIS ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME WAS GIVEN RECENTLY AND DETAILS FOR THE PHASED PROGRAMME OF A LEGITIMATE POWER SYSTEM ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

THE OVERALL COST OF THE INSTALLATION WORK FOR ALL 22 EXISTING LICENSED AREAS WILL BE SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY : +THE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME WILL START ONCE DETAILS HAVE BEEN FINALISED AND THE PILOT PROJECT HAS PROVED SATISFACTORY, BOTH TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE POWER CO.+

HE APPEALED TO PEOPLE LIVING IN THE LICENSED AREAS NOT TO TAP ELECTRICITY ILLEGALLY. +THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS PRACTICE+, HE SAID, +AND FOR SAFETY REASONS WE MUST CONTINUE TO DISCONNECT ILLEGAL WIRING.+

BOTH THE POWER CO. AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WHICH CAN BE FATAL.

+THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT IN KOWLOON BAY LICENSED AREA YESTERDAY, WHEN A LITTLE GIRL WAS ELECTROCUTED, IS A FORCEFUL WARNING TO PEOPLE WHO INSIST ON USING ILLEGAL WIRING.

+BOTH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO INSTALL LEGITIMATE POWER SYSTEMS IN LICENSED AREAS+, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. BUT UNTIL SUCH WORK CAN BE COMPLETED, HE APPEALED TO PEOPLE TO HEED HIS ADVICE.

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HEUNG YEE KUK/NTA MEETING

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HEUNG YEE KUK LEADERS TODAY RESPONDED TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. HADDON-CAVE'S CALL FOR A PUBLIC DEBATE ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC FUTURE.

THE KUK'S VIEWS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICY WERE GIVEN TO MR. DEREK JONES, SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AT A MEETING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS.

THE MEETING, DIVIDED INTO TWO SESSIONS, WAS PRESIDED OVER BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND ATTENDED BY 16 KUK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, MR. CHAN YAT-SAN, AND THE TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN, MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AND MR. LAM SHUE-CHUN.

QUESTIONS ON LAND AND HOUSING PROBLEMS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST SESSION.

KUK LEADERS STRESSED THE NEED FOR A FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE POLICY GOVERNING THE QUESTIONS OF RESUMPTION, EXCHANGE, PREMIUM AND CLEARANCES. MR. AKERS-JONES REPLIED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND WAS AWAITING A REPLY.

IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ECONOMIC SECRETARY, MR. DEREK JONES, KUK MEMBERS SAID THAT THEY WOULD RATHER SEE NO CUT-BACKS IN PUBLIC SPENDING AND THAT ADDITIONAL REVENUE SHOULD BE SOUGHT OUTSIDE THE FISCAL SYSTEM.

THE MEMBERS SAW NO OBJECTION TO BORROWING FUNDS FROM OVERSEAS AND SUGGESTED THAT MORE MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS BE GIVEN TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISES TO UNDERTAKE.

THEY ALSO FELT THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE SHOULD BE LOOKED AT WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING REDUNDANCY AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY.

MEMBERS FELT THAT SPENDING ON PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE SUSPENDED, AND THAT TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR EX-PATRIATE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES GOING ON HOME LEAVE TEMPORARILY STOPPED.

THE HUGE DEFICIT SUSTAINED EACH YEAR BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THEY SAID, SHOULD BE REDUCED, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS UNFAIR TO THE TAXPAYERS TO BEAR THE BRUNT.

KUK MEMBERS FELT THAT WATER CHARGES SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED AS REVENUE DERIVED FROM IT WOULD BE RELATIVELY SMALL.

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THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT BONDS FOR FINANCING PUBLIC PROJECTS WAS ALSO SUGGESTED BY KUK LEADERS.

MEMBERS FELT THAT IF TAX HAD TO BE INCREASED, IT SHOULD BE ON LUXURY ITEMS.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY, ONE MEMBER FELT THAT THE QUOTED COST FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS UNREASONABLY LOW. HE WARNED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL IN INVESTING IN THE PROJECT LEST THE CONTRACTOR FAILED TO COMPLETE THE UNDERTAKING WITHIN THE SAID COST.

THE ECONOMIC SECRETARY NOTED ALL THE POINTS MADE BY THE MEMBERS. HE PROMISED THEM THAT THESE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PURPOSE FOR CALLING FOR A PUBLIC DEBATE WAS TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE PUBLIC WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PRESENT EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME CONTINUED IF TAXES HAD TO BE RAISED, OR WHETHER IT SHOULD BE MODIFIED.

HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF ALL THE PROBLEMS, DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS IN RAISING TAXES AND THAT HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THIS HAPPEN, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PUBLIC WERE ASKING FOR MORE HOUSES, ROADS AND SUCH FACILITIES.

HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO FINANCE SOME PROJECTS BY BORROWING AND THAT DISCUSSION WITH THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ON THE QUESTION OF LOANS WAS TAKING PLACE.

BUT THE PROJECTS SO FINANCED WOULD HAVE TO BE CONFINED TO THOSE WHICH WOULD GENERATE INCOME TO PAY OFF THE DEBTS.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD NOT, IN FACT, BEEN ANY CUT-BACKS SO FAR IN PUBLIC EXPENDING.

HE SAID THAT ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE THIS YEAR WAS LIKELY TO BE ABOUT \$6,000 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH \$5,000 MILLION LAST YEAR AND THAT REVENUE FROM EXISTING TAXES AND FEES MIGHT NOT RISE FAST ENOUGH TO MEET THIS INCREASED SPENDING DUE MAINLY TO THE OIL CRISIS.

+IF, THEREFORE, THERE SHOULD BE A SMALL DEFICIT THIS YEAR, THIS WOULD BE MET FROM THE RESERVES. BUT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO SPEND FROM THE RESERVES WITHOUT ENDANGERING OUR FUTURE,+ MR. JONES WARNED.

HE SAID THAT OUR RESERVES WAS A RESOURCE OF STRENGTH BECAUSE THEY ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO BORROW. THEY ALSO HELPED TO MAINTAIN THE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THEY EARNED A BIG INCOME FROM INTERESTS EQUIVALENT TO \$400 MILLION A YEAR.

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RECORD NUMBER OF PASSPORTS ISSUED LAST MONTH

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A TOTAL OF 7,017 BRITISH (HONG KONG) PASSPORTS WAS ISSUED IN JULY BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT - THE HIGHEST EVER FOR ANY ONE MONTH.

THE NEW RECORD IS 545 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS HIGH OF 6,472 RECORDED IN MAY THIS YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE ISSUE OF PASSPORTS USUALLY INCREASE IN THE SUMMER WITH LOCAL STUDENTS LEAVING FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES AND RESIDENTS LIKELY TO TRAVEL ABROAD ON HOLIDAYS.

DESPITE THE RISING DEMAND, HOWEVER, THE TIME FOR PROCESSING STRAIGHTFORWARD APPLICATIONS REMAINED THE SAME AS USUAL - ABOUT TEN TO FOURTEEN DAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT DEMAND FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. DURING THE 1973/74 FINANCIAL YEAR, A TOTAL OF 57,657 PASSPORTS WAS ISSUED. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 53 PER CENT OVER 1972/73 WHEN 37,468 WERE ISSUED.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS YEAR THE NUMBER WILL EXCEED 80,000.

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WATER CUT IN KOWLOON

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING AT 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10) TO ENABLE THE WATER WORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A TEST FOR LEAKAGE IN THE AREA.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, BROADCAST DRIVE, EDE ROAD, BEACON HILL ROAD, INCLUDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS HOUSING SCHEMES AND TAI VO PING LICENSED AREA.

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IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD
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A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT WEEK ALONG A SECTION OF CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, KOWLOON, TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW ON THE ROAD.

WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 13), ALL VEHICLES EXCEEDING 12 TONS LADEN WEIGHT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING THAT SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND FEI NGO SHAN ROAD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY EXPLAINED THAT THE SCHEME WAS INTENDED TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES, AND TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS ON THE STEEP DOWNHILL SECTION OF ROAD.

THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE, IN JUSTIFIED CASES, PERMITS TO ALLOW VEHICLES OVER 12 TONS LADEN WEIGHT TO MOVE ON THE PROHIBITED ROAD SECTION. OWNERS MAY APPLY IN WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG.

MEANWHILE, NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED NEXT WEEK IN TWO AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IN WESTERN DISTRICT, FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (AUGUST 12), AT THE JUNCTION OF CENTRE STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, ALL VEHICLES ON THE NORTHERN SECTION OF CENTRE STREET WHICH IS ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND, WILL BE REQUIRED TO TURN LEFT INTO DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, AND ALL VEHICLES ON THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF CENTRE STREET WHICH IS ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND, WILL BE REQUIRED TO TURN RIGHT.

IN WANCHAI, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 14) FROM ENTERING THE ACCESS ROAD, OFF CAROLINE HILL ROAD, LEADING TO THE CIVIL AID SERVICE HEADQUARTERS.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS
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SOME 70 NEW OFFICERS OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INDUCTION COURSES WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT PARADE GROUND, SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 10).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, MR. DENYS ROBERTS, WILL INSPECT THE PARADE AND PRESENT PRIZES TO THE BEST RECRUITS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PARADE WHICH BEGINS AT 9.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

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DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO MEET THE MEDIA

NOTE TO EDITORS: A +MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION WILL BE HELD AT 12 NOON TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE. MR. ALLAN FLETCHER WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET JOURNALISTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORK OF HIS DEPARTMENT.

THE SESSION IS PART OF A SERIES ARRANGED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES TO ENABLE NEWSMEN TO MEET SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND QUESTION THEM ABOUT THEIR WORK. IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT MEET THE MEDIA SESSIONS DO NOT INDICATE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MAJOR POLICY CHANGE.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER TOMORROW'S MEETING.

RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED, AND T.V. AND RADIO CREWS ARE REQUESTED TO HAVE THEIR EQUIPMENT SET UP BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING IN ORDER TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE.

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Y'S MEN'S CLUB PRAISED

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TONIGHT COMMENDED THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF VICTORIA FOR PIONEERING A YOUTH RECREATION CENTRE FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

HE SAID THE CENTRE, FOUNDED SEVEN YEARS AGO, WAS PROVIDING A MUCH NEEDED SERVICE IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEAF.

IN ADDITION, IT ALSO ORGANIZES CLASSES IN SEWING, KNITTING, SIGN-LANGUAGE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND PAINTING.

MR. LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE CLUB'S GALA PREMIERE OF THE FILM +STATE OF SEIGE+ HELD TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE CENTRE AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. LEE'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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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

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE KEU	GOOD	2.02
S.C.JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	---	-
CHU CHO	---	-
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.82
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.72
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.87
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.67
PAKISTAN RICE	---	-
TAIWAN RICE	---	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	NORMAL
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.20	1.70	2.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.00	0.40	1.40
SQUID	NORMAL	4.70	1.40	2.50
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	1.60	0.30	0.70
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	2.60	0.45	1.10
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.30	0.90	1.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	2.35	1.20	1.40
MELON COAT	NORMAL	2.00	0.90	1.30
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.30	2.00	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.00	0.40	0.90
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.50	4.00	4.20
RED COAT FISH	LIMITED	0.60	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	---	---	---	---
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	5.00	2.00	3.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	1.60	0.75	1.20
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.50	8.00	8.20
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.10	5.00	6.30
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	6.80	5.00	5.30

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

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

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.00	0.20	0.60
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.80	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	1.40	0.40	1.00
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.40	0.30	0.80
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
CHINESE SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
TOMATO	SCARCE	3.50	1.50	2.50

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