HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

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WATER RATIONING FROM SEPT.25

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THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE ADVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, HAS AUTHORISED RESTRICTIONS ON WATER USAGE DURING THE COMING DRY SEASON. THE RESTRICTIONS WILL ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S WATER RESOURCES ARE HUSBANDED CAREFULLY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS SO THAT THEY WILL LAST, WITH AN ADEQUATE RESERVE, INTO THE NEXT RAINY SEASON.

THE RESTRICTIONS WILL CONSIST OF A PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION IN THE DAILY HOURS OF SUPPLY, BEGINNING WITH A CUT TO A 16-HOUR SUPPLY FROM SEPTEMBER 25 AND FOLLOWED BY CUTS TO A 10-HOUR SUPPLY FROM OCTOBER 9 AND TO A 4-HOUR SUPPLY FROM OCTOBER 30. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION BY A QUARTER.

BACKGROUND AND REASONS

THE NECESSITY FOR RESTRICTIONS ARISES, SIMPLY, FROM DROUGHT. THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAS DISCLOSED THAT 1974 HAS BECOME, UP TO DATE, THE DRIEST YEAR FOR A DECADE. HONG KONG ENTERED THE RAINY SEASON WHICH IS NOW ENDING WITH A HEALTHY STORAGE TOTAL - FOR THAT TIME OF YEAR - OF ABOUT 40,000 MILLION GALLONS. BECAUSE OF THE EXCEPTIONALLY LIGHT RAINFALL FROM EARLY MAY ONWARDS, THE STORAGE TODAY HAS STAYED AT ROUGHLY THAT LEVEL, INSTEAD OF RISING TO WITHIN SIGHT OF FULL CAPACITY.

THIS LEVEL MEANS THAT AT THE EXPECTED NORMAL RATES OF CONSUMPTION, AND FAILING ANY DRAMATICALLY HIGH RAINFALLS IN THE REMAINING DAYS OF THE +WET+ SEASON (SUCH AS MUST NOW BE RECKONED TO BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY), OUR RESERVOIRS WOULD BE DRY BY NEXT APRIL. BY ACTING NOW TO CONSERVE SUPPLIES, WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN AND THAT, INSTEAD, WE MAINTAIN AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION UNTIL THE RESERVOIRS BEGIN TO FILL NEXT SUMMER.

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES TELL THE STORY:

RAINFALL

NORM FOR JAN. 1 TO SEPT. 11	71.4 INCHES
TOTAL FOR SAME PERIOD 1973	110.6 INCHES
TOTAL FOR SAME PERIOD 1974	53.4 INCHES
1974 DEFICIENCY BELOW NORM	18 INCHES
DEFICIENCY IN PERCENTAGE	25%

/TOTAL STORAGE .....

STORAGE

TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY	67,300 M.G.
STORAGE THIS TIME LAST YEAR	65,900 M.G.
STORAGE TODAY	37,800 M.G.
SHORTFALL BELOW FULL CAPACITY	29,500 M.G.
PERCENTAGE SHORTFALL	44%

THE PHASING AND HOURS OF RESTRICTION

TURNING OFF AND TURNING ON SUPPLY FROM THE MAINS IS NOT AN OPERATION WHICH CAN BE TIMED TO THE MINUTE IN ITS EFFECT ON THE CONSUMER, ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SEE THAT CONTROL IS AS PRECISE AS POSSIBLE. WITH THIS PROVISO, THE HOURLY PERIODS OF SUPPLY DURING THE THREE RESTRICTION PHASES NOW ANNOUNCED WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

PHASE 1 — 16-HOUR SUPPLY. SUPPLY PERIOD:6 A.M. TO 10 P.M.
PHASE 2 — 10-HOUR SUPPLY. SUPPLY PERIODS: 6 A.M. TO 11 A.M. AND 4 P.M. TO 9 P.M.
PHASE 3 — 4-HOUR SUPPLY. SUPPLY PERIODS: 6 A.M. TO 10 A.M. OR 4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

IN PHASE 3 SOME AREAS WILL BE ON MORNING SUPPLY AND SOME ON EVENING SUPPLY. DETAILS OF ZONING FOR PHASE 3 WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND PUBLICISED IN GOOD TIME.

TIMING OF RESTRICTIONS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, IN TIMES OF HIGH STORAGE AND LOW, THE WATERWORKS OFFICE KEEPS UNDER OBSERVATION THE VARYING PROBABILITIES OF ACHIEVING THE NECESSARY STORAGES REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN FULL SUPPLY. THE RECOMMENDATION OF RESTRICTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT WAS BASED ON SUCH CALCULATIONS. TIMING THEREFORE DEPENDS ON A FINELY COMPUTED ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. ON THE ONE HAND, A PREMATURE RECOMMENDATION, LEADING TO THE INCONVENIENCE OF SHORT-LIVED RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAY IN THE EVENT BE PROVED UNNECESSARY, HAS TO BE AVOIDED. ON THE OTHER HAND, A BELATED RECOMMENDATION CAN LEAD TO MORE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS. IN CHOOSING THE TIMING, THEREFORE, THIS BALANCE HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE NEED FOR VOLUNTARY ECONOMY

THIS NEED, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD, IS ABSOLUTE AND UNQUALIFIED. ANY WASTE OF WATER IN HONG KONG MUST BE REGARDED AS A SOCIAL OFFENCE= AND ANY VOLUNTARY ACTION TAKEN TO SAVE WATER IS, CORRESPONDINGLY, A GOOD DEED DONE ON THE COMMUNITY'S BEHALF. THE NEED TO SAVE, AND PARTICULARLY TO AVOID ANY WASTE, WILL CONTINUE— BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE RESTRICTIONS NOW ANNOUNCED.

THE WATERWORKS OFFICE HERE PLACES ON RECORD ITS APPRECIATION OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA HAVE CONVEYED THIS MESSAGE OVER PAST YEARS AND DURING RECENT MONTHS, AS WELL AS ALERTING THE COMMUNITY PROGRESSIVELY TO THE SHORTAGE AS IT HAS DEVELOPED THIS SUMMER.

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REVIEW OF 5-YEAR SOCIAL WELFARE PLAN

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THE 1974 REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE REVIEW INVOLVED A DETAILED STUDY OF THE PLAN WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING THAT IT REMAINS ON COURSE, THAT PROJECTS FOR COMING YEARS REMAIN RELEVANT, AND THAT PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE PLAN, TO BE EXTENDED BY A FURTHER YEAR.

THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN THE FORM OF A REPORT WHICH IS NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD CONCERNED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN. THE REPORT IS, HOWEVER, A TECHNICAL DOCUMENT AND AS SUCH, IS LARGELY MADE UP OF DETAILED TABLES AND ANALYSES. IT FOLLOWS THAT IT IS NOT DESIGNED FOR GENERAL READING. NEVERTHELESS, THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION ON APPLICATION TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BY ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ITS CONTENT.

MR. FREDERICK CLARK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, EXPLAINED THAT THE REPORT HAD NOTED THE ACHIEVEMENTS COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS UNDER THE PLAN IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS (1973-1974), HAD EXAMINED IN DEPTH THE PROJECTS IN TRAIN FOR 1975, AND FINALLY HAD LOOKED MORE BROADLY AT THOSE SCHEDULED FOR 1976 AND ONWARDS WHILE AGREEING FURTHER PROJECTS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PLAN TO COVER 1979 AND BEYOND.

MR. CLARK ADDED THAT DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PLAN, 1973, A TOTAL OF 54 PROJECTS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES SCHEME AND THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN RELIED UPON A FIRM PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THE FIRST YEAR'S PROJECTS INCLUDED THE OPENING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK NEW WELFARE BUILDING AND THE MARYCOVE CENTRE FOR GIRLS UNDERTAKEN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE REVIEW OF THE PLAN TOOK PLACE OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE MONTHS AND INVOLVED ABOUT 30 MEETINGS AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TOGETHER WITH SOCIAL WORKERS FROM SPECIFIC VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MET TOGETHER AND FREELY DISCUSSED ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AND ITS FUTURE LEADING TO THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW REPORT.

THE INCLUSION OF A PARTICULAR PROJECT IN THE 5-YEAR-PLAN AND THE REVIEW, HE POINTED OUT, DOES NOT OF COURSE REPRESENT A GUARANTEE OF IMPLEMENTATION. THIS IS BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE AND THERE IS ALWAYS NEED TO DETERMINE POLICY IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST EVIDENCE AND ALSO OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

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CHAIRMAN FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION

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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. NORMAN SINCLAIR THOMPSON AS CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WHICH IS TO BE SET UP BY LEGISLATION LATER THIS YEAR TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROJECT.

MR. THOMPSON IS CURRENTLY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY LTD.

BORN IN 1920, MR. THOMPSON IS A FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF COST AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS.

MR. THOMPSON HAS LONG EXPERIENCE IN MAJOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. BEFORE JOINING THE CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY IN 1970, MR. THOMPSON WAS DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SWAN HUNTER GROUP AND PRIOR TO THAT, AS OVERSEAS DIRECTOR, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RE-ORGANISATION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FORMER NAVAL DOCKYARDS IN MALTA, SINGAPORE AND TRINIDAD.

BETWEEN 1961 AND 1963, HE WAS FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF DAVID BROWN AND SONS, MANUFACTURERS OF GEARINGS AND MACHINE TOOLS, AND BEFORE THAT HE WAS GROUP SECRETARY OF RICHARDSON, WESTGARTH AND COMPANY LTD., MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, AND SHIP REPAIRERS.

MR. THOMPSON WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MR. THOMPSON IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS, AGED 27 AND 20. HIS HOBBIES INCLUDE YACHTING AND MUSIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. THOMPSON WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION THIS EVENING.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TAI PO ROAD SECTION

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE HA WO CHE BORROW AREA IN SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR THREE HOURS EARLY SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 14) MORNING FROM 3 O'CLOCK.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF OVERHEAD DECKING FOR AN ACCESS BRIDGE ACROSS TAI PO ROAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SHA TIN RACE COURSE.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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CUTS IN RETAIL RICE PRICE CEILINGS

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A NUMBER OF CUTS IN THE MAXIMUM PRICES WHICH RETAILERS CAN CHARGE FOR RICE WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

AT A MEETING OF THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IT WAS AGREED THAT RETAIL PRICE CEILINGS FOR RICE IN VARIOUS GRADES SHOULD BE REDUCED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FALLING IMPORT PRICES.

THE MAXIMUM PRICE LEVELS WILL NOW RANGE FROM $2.25 TO $2.45 PER CATTY DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF RICE BEING SOLD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT ACTUAL RETAIL PRICES WERE ALREADY REFLECTING THE DOWNWARD TREND IN IMPORT PRICES, AND THE REVISED CEILING STRUCTURE HAD BEEN FIXED TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT.

AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED AT THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TO REDUCE THE MAXIMUM MARK-UP FOR RETAILERS FROM $40 TO $30 PER PICUL.

THIS REDUCTION IS BEING INTRODUCED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ACTUAL MARK-UPS APPLIED BY RETAILERS.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 13) TO FACILITATE A TEST FOR LEAKAGE TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED BY THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, LUNG SUM ROAD AND SAN FUNG AVENUE.

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GOVERNOR SEES THRIVING WATCH INDUSTRY AT WORK

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY VIEWED MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS IN HONG KONG'S THRIVING WATCH INDUSTRY WHOSE EXPORT EARNINGS TOPPED $440 MILLION LAST YEAR.

SINCE 1960, WHEN EXPORTS TOTALLED $20 MILLION, THE NUMBER OF FACTORIES INVOLVED IN THE WATCH AND CLOCK INDUSTRY HAS GROWN FROM 70 TO 300, AND THE LABOUR FORCE HAS INCREASED FROM 2,550 TO OVER 11,500.

SIR MURRAY MADE A SHOP-FLOOR TOUR OF THE SAN PO KONG FACTORY OF STELUX MANUFACTURING CO. LTD, WHICH IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF WATCH BRACELETS.

ABOUT 2,500 WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED AT THE FACTORY WHICH TURNS OUT BETWEEN 20,000 TO 25,000 WATCH BRACELETS A DAY. SALES OF WATCH BRACELETS AND DIALS AVERAGE SOME $6 MILLION A MONTH AND THE MAIN EXPORT MARKETS ARE SOUTH-EAST ASIA, EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN THE FIRM WAS STARTED 11 YEARS AGO IT EMPLOYED ONLY 30 WORKERS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT TO THE FACTORY BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, AND THE PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MR. K.H. YEUNG.

THEY TOURED THE PREMISES WITH THE FIRM'S CHAIRMAN, MR. NG CHUE MENG= THE DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER, MR. ALBERT GAZELEY= AND THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER, MR. STANLEY HOON.

THE PRODUCTION OF WATCH BRACELETS IS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE LOCAL WATCH INDUSTRY, ACCOUNTING FOR EXPORTS WORTH $132 MILLION LAST YEAR.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY. AT THE END OF MAY THIS YEAR IT TOTALLED $186 MILLION, WITH THAILAND ACCOUNTING FOR $138 MILLION, THE UNITED STATES $18 MILLION, BERMUDA $15 MILLION AND JAPAN $11.5 MILLION.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) 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 MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI		NO SALE
CHU CHO		NO SALE
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.82
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 : SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 : SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
U.S. RICE		NO SALE
AUSTRALIAN RICE		1.74
PAKISTAN RICE		NO SALE
TAIWAN RICE		NO SALE

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK ($/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) 320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

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	5.00	1.80	4.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	1.20	2.20
SQUID	GOOD	3.20	0.50	2.00
HAIR TAILS	NORMAL	2.00	0.60	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	4.00	0.50	1.60
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.40	0.50	0.90
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	2.00	1.20	1.80
MELON COAT	NORMAL	1.80	1.00	1.20
BREAMS	NORMAL	4.50	2.50	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.70	1.20
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.30	1.70	4.00
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	1.20	0.70	1.00
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.30	1.00	1.10
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	6.00	3.20	4.50
MELON SEED	GOOD	2.60	0.80	1.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	7.00	5.50	6.00
GAROUPAS	LIMITED	10.00	6.50	8.00
YELLOW CROAKER	LIMITED	5.80	3.50	4.50

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	1.80	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.70
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.50	0.60	1.20
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.20	0.80	1.50
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.50	0.50	1.00
SPINACH	—	—	—	—
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.50	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.70
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.90	0.25	0.60
TOMATO	SCARCE	5.00	3.00	4.00

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