



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC
FOOD COMMODITIES

LABOUR TRIBUNAL TO BE MADE PERMANENT

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HONG KONG'S LABOUR TRIBUNAL WHICH HAS SUCCESSFULLY HELPED SETTLE MORE THAN 1,000 MONETARY DISPUTES INVOLVING CLAIMS OF ABOUT \$3 MILLION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS IN THE PAST 14 MONTHS IS TO BE ESTABLISHED ON A PERMANENT BASIS UNDER A BILL GAZETTED TODAY.

KNOWN AS THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE LEGISLATION WILL BE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY TO EFFECT THIS PROPOSAL.

THE BILL HAS THREE MAIN PURPOSES:

* TO PUT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE ON A PERMANENT FOOTING=

* TO PROVIDE THAT LEAVE TO APPEAL MUST BE OBTAINED AS A PREREQUISITE TO AN APPEAL AGAINST AN AWARD, ORDER OR DETERMINATION BY A PRESIDING OFFICER; AND

* TO EMPOWER A PRESIDING OFFICER TO PUNISH FOR CONTEMPT.

MR. MICHAEL WONG, THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE TRIBUNAL, EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN MARCH 1972 TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A LABOUR TRIBUNAL. THE ORDINANCE, THEN INTRODUCED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1975.

THE FIRST TRIBUNAL BEGAN OPERATION ON MARCH 1 LAST YEAR AND PROVED TO BE AN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS IN PROVIDING A QUICK, INEXPENSIVE, SIMPLE AND INFORMAL METHOD OF SETTLING MONETARY DISPUTES, HE SAID.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND UP TO THE END OF LAST MONTH, A TOTAL OF 1,398 CLAIMS INVOLVING MORE THAN \$3 MILLION WERE DEALT WITH BY THE TRIBUNAL. OF THESE, 1,109 CASES HAD CONCLUDED AND MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION HAD BEEN AWARDED TO THE CLAIMANTS.

MR. WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF CASES DEALT WITH DOUBLED THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF 500 CLAIMS A YEAR AND IT ALSO DOUBLED THE ANNUAL FIGURE OF ALL WAGE CASES HANDLED BY THE DISTRICT COURT IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE TRIBUNAL TO KEEP UP WITH ITS INCREASING VOLUME OF WORK, A SECOND PRESIDING OFFICER AND SUPPORTING STAFF WERE APPOINTED FROM FEBRUARY 1, THIS YEAR.

JUDGING FROM ITS PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST YEAR, MR. WONG NOTED THAT THE TRIBUNAL SERVED A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE AND SHOULD BE MADE PERMANENT.

HE EXPLAINED THAT, UNDER THE BILL AN APPEAL AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT WITH LEAVE FROM THE DISTRICT COURT.

AT PRESENT, APPEALS ARE SOMETIMES LODGED ON GROUNDS WHICH ARE NOT PERMITTED BY THE ORDINANCE AND THIS CAUSES UNWARRANTED DELAY IN FINALISING CLAIMS.

/THE BILL

THE BILL SEEKS TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION AND TO ENSURE THAT THE OBJECTS OF SPEED AND INFORMALITY IN THE TRIBUNAL ARE NOT DEFEATED BY VEXATIOUS OR GROUNDLESS APPEALS.

MR. WONG CONTINUED THAT THREATENING OR INSULTING EXPRESSIONS OR BEHAVING IN AN INSULTING MANNER IN THE PRESENCE OF A PRESIDING OFFICER WERE SOMETIMES EXPERIENCED DURING A TRIBUNAL PROCEEDING.

IN ORDER TO CONTROL EFFECTIVELY THE PROCEEDINGS, THE BILL EMPOWERS A PRESIDING OFFICER TO PUNISH SUMMARILY PERSONS WHO COMMIT CONTEMPT. AS A RESULT, A PRESIDING OFFICER WILL BE ABLE TO ENFORCE THE PAYMENT OF ANY FINE, OR TO GIVE EFFECT TO ANY SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT, IMPOSED BY HIM.

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NIGHT WORK ON ABERDEEN PILOT TUNNEL

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NIGHT WORK PERMITS HAVE BEEN GRANTED, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO ENABLE WORK ON THE ABERDEEN PILOT TUNNEL TO BE CARRIED OUT 24 HOURS A DAY AT BOTH ENDS AT HAPPY VALLEY AND WONG CHUK HANG.

AN EXEMPTION ORDER DESIGNED TO EXCLUDE THESE TWO AREAS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 13 OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. UNDER THIS SECTION, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO MAKE A NOISE CALCULATED TO DISTURB THE PUBLIC TRANQUILLITY OR TO ANNOY ANY PERSON BETWEEN 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE WORKS WOULD CAUSE DISTURBANCE TO RESIDENTS IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY ISOLATED NATURE OF THE PORTAL POSITIONS WHICH ARE SITUATED AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.

+MOREOVER, MOST OF THE WORK WILL BE TAKING PLACE INSIDE THE TUNNEL ITSELF AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DISTURBANCE IS THEREFORE REMOTE.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS MAY ORDER WORK TO BE STOPPED IF HE CONSIDERS THAT THE NOISE CREATED BY THE WORKS IS CAUSING UNNECESSARY DISTURBANCE AND ANNOYANCE TO THE PUBLIC.

ONE OF THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE EXEMPTION ORDER, WHICH COMES INTO EFFECT TODAY UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 1974, STIPULATES THAT THE SOUND LEVEL GENERATED FROM ALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT BE REDUCED TO 50 DECIBELS, MEASURED OUTSIDE THE NEAREST OCCUPIED PROPERTY WHEN WORK IS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 8 P.M. AND 6 A.M.

NEVERTHELESS, PILING WORKS OF ANY SORT WITHIN THE SCHEDULED AREAS AS WELL AS BLASTING OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THE TUNNEL ARE STILL PROHIBITED BETWEEN 8 P.M. AND 6 A.M. AND BETWEEN 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M. RESPECTIVELY.

UNDER A CONTRACT LET BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT LAST FEBRUARY, THE CONTRACTOR, GAMMON (HK) LTD. IS TO DRIVE A HEADING 340 METRES LONG FROM A PORTAL POSITION IN THE COLONIAL CEMETERY, HAPPY VALLEY, AND A SECOND HEADING 600 METRES LONG FROM THE SITE OF THE SOUTHERN PORTAL IN THE WONG CHUK HANG AREA.

THE WORK ON THE PILOT TUNNEL IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

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REVISION OF PAYMENT PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN CROWN RENTS

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CROWN RENTS NOT EXCEEDING \$100 A YEAR MAY NOW BE PAID EVERY FIVE YEARS INSTEAD OF EVERY SIX MONTHS, UNDER A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

APART FROM BEING MORE ECONOMICAL, THE NEW PROCEDURE MEANS THAT OWNERS WILL NOT BE TROUBLED WITH DEMANDS FOR SMALL AMOUNTS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT EXPLAINED THAT CROWN RENTS WOULD NOW BE COLLECTED IN ARREAR AT FIVE-YEAR INTERVALS, BUT THOSE OWNERS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE PAYING EVERY SIX MONTHS MAY STILL DO SO.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEXT DEMAND WILL BE MADE IN JUNE 1979 FOR CROWN RENTS WHICH WILL FALL DUE ON AND AFTER JUNE 24 THIS YEAR UP TO AND INCLUDING JUNE 24, 1979. AFTERWARDS, FURTHER DEMANDS WILL BE ISSUED IN THE MONTH OF JUNE AT FIVE-YEARLY INTERVALS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A SIMILAR PROCEDURE HAS BEEN IN FORCE FOR VILLAGE LOTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND SINCE 1960 AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SINCE 1969.

THIS HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO LOTS IN THE URBAN AREA IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON (EXCLUDING LOTS REGISTERED IN A DISTRICT LAND OFFICE).

ALTHOUGH CROWN RENTS NEED ONLY BE PAID ON ISSUE OF DEMAND NOTES OR NOTICES, ANY OWNER WHO STILL WISHES TO PAY HIS RENT HALF-YEARLY MAY DO SO BY PAYING IN AT THE TREASURY REVENUE BRANCH, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING, 2ND FLOOR), ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG, HE SAID.

THOSE WHO WANT TO FOLLOW THE MORE CONVENIENT NEW PROCEDURE, HOWEVER, ARE ADVISED TO MAKE PROVISION FOR PAYMENT OF THE FULL AMOUNT DUE AT THE END OF EACH FIVE-YEAR INTERVAL.

PEOPLE WHO ARE BUYING PROPERTY, ESPECIALLY FLATS, ARE ALSO ASKED TO NOTE THAT THEY MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY SOME ARREARS OF CROWN RENT FOR THE PROPERTY WHEN THE NEXT FIVE-YEARLY PAYMENT DATE ARRIVES, DEPENDING ON THE DATE OF PURCHASE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DEMAND ALL CROWN RENT DUE AT ANY TIME IF IT SEES FIT TO DO SO, AND TO RE-ENTER UPON THE LAND OR VEST THE RELEVANT INTEREST IF DEFAULT IS MADE IN PAYMENT.

+CROWN RENTS EXCEEDING \$100 A YEAR WILL CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED HALF-YEARLY ON THE DATES DUE AS IN THE PAST,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW JOB IN GENEVA FOR HONG KONG TRADE NEGOTIATOR

HONG KONG'S LEADING TRADE NEGOTIATOR, MR. BILL DORWARD, OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, LEFT FOR GENEVA TODAY (FRIDAY) TO TAKE UP NEW DUTIES CONNECTED WITH THE RECENTLY-FORMED TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY.

THE BODY HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) TO OVERSEE THE WORKINGS OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENT COVERING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY CONSISTS OF AN INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN AND EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES WHICH FOR THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PAKISTAN, YUGOSLAVIA, SWEDEN AND MEXICO.

ITS COMPOSITION ALSO ALLOWS FOR +ALTERNATE+ REPRESENTATIVES AND MR. DORWARD WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS CAPACITY, AT THE INVITATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

MR. DORWARD REPRESENTED HONG KONG THROUGHOUT LAST YEAR'S MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED TO THE NEW ARRANGEMENT COVERING WORLD TRADE IN TEXTILES. DURING THAT PERIOD HE OCCUPIED THE POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (COMMERCIAL RELATIONS) IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, SERVING AS THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF TRADE NEGOTIATOR.

FOR HIS NEW DUTIES IN GENEVA HE WILL HAVE THE DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF A COUNSELLOR IN THE BRITISH MISSION. THIS POST WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THAT OCCUPIED FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS BY MR. GERRY PEARSON WHO SERVES AS COUNSELLOR FOR HONG KONG AFFAIRS IN GENEVA AND COVERS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS SITED THERE.

MR. DORWARD COMMENTED: +I HAVE SPENT AS MUCH TIME IN GENEVA IN THE LAST YEAR AS I HAVE IN HONG KONG AND THE COMMITMENT IS NOW SUCH THAT IT IS ONLY SENSIBLE FOR ME TO BE BASED THERE. I SHALL BE CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY WITH THE WORKINGS OF THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY, BUT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH OTHER DUTIES IN EUROPE CONCERNING HONG KONG'S TRADE INTERESTS AS TIME WILL ALLOW.+

IN HONG KONG, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (COMMERCIAL RELATIONS) IN PLACE OF MR. DORWARD. MR. MILLS HAS JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON AFTER LEADING A DELEGATION WHICH HAS NEGOTIATED A NEW AGREEMENT ON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

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POULTRY MANURE DRYER SET UP IN PAT HEUNG
PILOT SCHEME TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURAL WASTES
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A POULTRY MANURE DRYER IS BEING INSTALLED AT PAT HEUNG SHEUNG CHUEN IN YUEN LONG BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT OF POULTRY WASTES.

THIS IS A PILOT SCHEME AIMED AT SOLVING PART OF THE POLLUTION PROBLEM CAUSED BY AGRICULTURAL WASTES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, RECYCLING THE POULTRY MANURE AS A FERTILISER OR ANIMAL FOODSTUFF AS PRACTISED ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

MR. YIP WAI HUNG, FIELD OFFICER OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED AGRICULTURAL WASTE TREATMENT UNIT, SAID: +THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE PAST YEARS.

+THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FACING THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY IS THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PIG AND POULTRY MANURE. THE INSTALLATION OF THIS POULTRY MANURE DRYER IS THE FIRST PILOT SCHEME CARRIED OUT BY OUR DEPARTMENT TO HELP TACKLE THE PROBLEM.+

THE DRYER, WHICH COSTS ABOUT \$170,000, IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING FIVE TONS OF WET POULTRY MANURE IN ONE EIGHT-HOUR WORKING DAY, WITH AN OUTPUT OF OVER ONE TON DRIED MANURE.

DURING THE DRYING PROCESS, THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE POULTRY MANURE IS REDUCED FROM ABOUT 80 PER CENT TO 10 PER CENT.

MR. YIP POINTED OUT THAT ONE SPECIAL FEATURE OF THIS MACHINE IS THAT IT NOT ONLY DRIES THE MANURE BUT KILLS ALL GERMS AND BAD SMELL AT THE SAME TIME, AND THIS HELPS TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM OF AIR POLLUTION.

THE DRIED MANURE PRODUCED CAN THEN BE USED AS FERTILISER OR ANIMAL FOODSTUFF, PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR CATTLE AND PIGS.

+HOWEVER, THE USES OF THIS DRIED MANURE WILL FIRST BE TESTED OUT BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON GOVERNMENT FARMS BEFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED TO THE LOCAL FARMERS.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE THE MARKET FOR DRIED MANURE, THE ECONOMIES OF THE PROCESS AND DIFFICULTIES THAT COULD ARISE IF THE SCHEME IS DEVELOPED INTO A FULL SCALE TREATMENT SYSTEM FOR POULTRY MANURE, + MR. YIP SAID.

BEFORE THE MACHINE GOES INTO OPERATION IN JULY, FIVE POULTRY MANURE COLLECTION CENTRES WILL BE SET UP -- FOUR IN PAT HEUNG AND ONE IN SAN TIN. THESE WILL FACILITATE THE FARMERS IN THEIR DISPOSAL OF THEIR DAILY POULTRY MANURE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF THE 500 TONS OF POULTRY MANURE PRODUCED DAILY BY POULTRY FARMS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE BROUGHT TO THESE FIVE CENTRES.

MR. YIP STRESSED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PILOT SCHEME WAS DEPENDENT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE FARMERS. +ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS TO BRING THEIR POULTRY MANURE TO THE COLLECTION POINTS.+

LAST YEAR A DETAILED SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE POULTRY FARMERS' REACTION TO THIS NEW METHOD OF DISPOSING POULTRY MANURE.

A TOTAL OF OVER 200 POULTRY FARMS WERE VISITED. THE FARMERS ALL APPROVED OF THE SCHEME BUT SAID THAT THE COLLECTION POINTS MUST BE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED.

+IF THIS PILOT SCHEME PROVES SUCCESSFUL, WE WILL INSTALL BIGGER MACHINES AND SET UP ANOTHER 19 COLLECTION CENTRES TO HANDLE THE TREATMENT OF POULTRY MANURE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO ENCOURAGE CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PIG FARMS WHICH WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE PRESENT POLLUTION CAUSED BY PIG WASTE, + MR. YIP SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE POULTRY MANURE DRYER WILL BE BOXED TODAY.

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\$185 MILLION SURPLUS IN FEBRUARY
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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1974 SHOW A SURPLUS OF \$185 MILLION COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$173 MILLION IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN A TOTAL SURPLUS OF \$510 MILLION FOR THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973-74.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$592 MILLION WAS \$97 MILLION MORE THAN IN FEBRUARY 1973 LARGELY AS A RESULT OF INCREASED COLLECTIONS IN RESPECT OF EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAXES. THE TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1973-74 AT \$4,770 MILLION WAS \$332 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTED TO \$406 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$85 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR MAINLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED SPENDING ON PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS AND PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THE 1973-74 FINANCIAL YEAR TO \$4,260 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$898 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

EXPENDITURE IN THESE ELEVEN MONTHS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE TRANSFER OF \$300 MILLION FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED FOR THE MASS TRANSIT FUND. THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH.

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LIMITED RELAXATION IN EXPORT CONTROLS ON PLASTICS
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A LIMITED RELAXATION OF CONTROLS RESTRICTING EXPORTS OF POLYETHYLENE FROM HONG KONG WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

SINCE THE CONTROLS WERE IMPOSED EARLIER THIS YEAR ONLY COMPANIES WHICH WERE ALLOCATED QUOTA BY THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN LICENCES TO EXPORT LOW DENSITY AND HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE, WHICH IS USED EXTENSIVELY IN THE LOCAL PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

IT HAS NOW BEEN DECIDED, AFTER CONSULTING TRADE AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, TO ALLOW COMPANIES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED QUOTA TO APPLY FOR EXPORT LICENCES.

EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES AT 46 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL FROM 8.30 A.M. ON MONDAY (MAY 20) TO 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY (MAY 24).

LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED TO ALLOW NON-QUOTA HOLDERS TO EXPORT DURING MAY AND JUNE UP TO 1,500,000 LBS OF LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE AND A MAXIMUM OF 300,000 LBS OF HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE. THE LICENCES WILL BE VALID FOR 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE.

APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES WILL BE APPROVED, IF NECESSARY, ON A PROPORTIONATE BASIS AGAINST THE TOTAL QUANTITIES AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

A CIRCULAR HAS BEEN ISSUED TO THE TRADE TO GIVE DETAILED INFORMATION. FURTHER ADVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING MR. H.T.U. LAU, ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER (TEL: 5-235846) OR MR. T.H. YIM, INDUSTRY ASSISTANT (TEL: 5-228449).

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GOOD RESPONSE TO INDOOR DRIVING COURSES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY BEGAN ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR ITS NEW INDOOR DRIVING INSTRUCTION CENTRE FOR LEARNER DRIVERS.

THE CENTRE, WHICH IS EQUIPPED WITH 16 SIMULATORS, WILL BEGIN OPERATING FROM JUNE 1.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, MR. HENRY KU, SAID TODAY THAT THE INITIAL RESPONSE WAS MOST ENCOURAGING. BY MID-AFTERNOON, CLASSES FOR THE FIRST COURSE WERE ALMOST FILLED AND MANY PEOPLE HAD EITHER BEEN TELEPHONING OR CALLING AT THE PUI CHING ROAD CENTRE IN KOWLOON FOR INFORMATION ON THE NEW SYSTEM. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SOME ADVANCE BOOKINGS FOR FUTURE COURSES.

MR. KU SAID THAT THE EVENING LESSONS WERE PROVING VERY POPULAR. ALL THE EVENING CLASSES FOR THE FIRST COURSE, FROM JUNE 1 TO JUNE 15, WERE FULLY BOOKED. HOWEVER, THERE WAS STILL ROOM FOR CANDIDATES IN CLASSES BEING HELD THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE 15-HOUR COURSES SPREAD OVER AS MANY DAYS WILL TRAIN LEARNER-DRIVERS IN THE USE OF VARIOUS CONTROLS, RECOGNITION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS AND NORMAL REACTIONS TO DIFFERENT TRAFFIC SITUATIONS.

ALL THIS IS DONE INSIDE A SIMULATED CAR. THE COURSE, COSTING \$200, INCLUDES LECTURES BY TRAINED INSTRUCTORS, SPECIAL FILMS AND SIMULATOR DRIVING.

THOSE WISHING TO APPLY MUST ALREADY HAVE PASSED THE WRITTEN TEST ON THE HIGHWAY CODE. THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM THEIR PROVISIONAL DRIVING LICENCE, HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND TWO RECENT COPIES OF THEIR PHOTOGRAPH. THE SPECIAL APPLICATION FORM CAN BE COMPLETED AT THE OFFICES.

MR. KU SAID THAT THOSE WHO PASS THE SIMULATOR TEST AT THE END OF THE COURSE WILL BE PLACED ON A SPECIAL SHORT WAITING LIST FOR THE COMBINED ROAD TEST. ONCE THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE NECESSARY ON-ROAD DRIVING TRAINING THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE COMBINED ROAD TEST WITHIN A PERIOD OF 11 OR 12 WEEKS -- SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THE NORMAL WAITING TIME FOR KOWLOON.

CLASSES AT THE CENTRE WILL BEGIN AT 7 A.M. AND END AT 11 P.M. EACH DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

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SITE FOR C.M.A. EXHIBITION

GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR A SITE AT WAN CHAI, TO STAGE THEIR 1974/75 EXHIBITION, WAS COMMUNICATED VERBALLY TO THE ASSOCIATION'S ARCHITECTS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL WAS WITHHELD PENDING THE RESOLUTION OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING MATTERS RELATING TO THE USE OF THE SITE.

+AS A MATTER OF RECORD,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, +NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE SITE FOR THE LAST TWO C.M.A. EXHIBITIONS, TOGETHER WITH BASIC CONDITIONS CONCERNING OCCUPATION, WERE CONVEYED TO THE ASSOCIATION IN JUNE 1972 AND MAY 1973 RESPECTIVELY.

+IT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL FOR A REDUCED SITE AREA AT WAN CHAI, HAS NOT BEEN UNDULY DELAYED IN REGARD TO THE LATEST APPLICATION.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING WAYS AND MEANS OF MEETING THE ASSOCIATION'S ASPIRATIONS FOR A PERMANENT EXHIBITION SITE.

COMMENTING ON THE OFFER OF A SITE AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, WHICH WAS MADE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND WITHDRAWN IN JANUARY, HE SAID THAT THIS DECISION WAS ONLY TAKEN AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE RELEVANT FACTORS.

+THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS MADE TOWARDS HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS FULLY RECOGNISED, AND THE FACT THAT THE OFFER OF A SITE AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WAS WITHDRAWN IN NO WAY DETRACTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S IMPORTANCE AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TOWARDS HONG KONG'S WELLBEING.+

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (FRIDAY) 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)
CHINA RICE		
SEE NEW		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	--	--
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	--	--
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	2.07
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.87
A1 SUPER	--	--
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.98
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.91
PAKISTAN RICE	--	--
TAIWAN RICE	--	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	305 (AVERAGE)

/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	NORMAL	4.20	3.00	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	0.60	2.00
SQUID	LIMITED	6.20	2.50	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.50	0.80	1.30
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.50	1.50	2.50
CROAKERS	NORMAL	2.20	1.00	1.80
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.80	1.30	1.60
MELON COAT	--	--	--	--
BREAMS	NORMAL	4.20	2.50	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.10	0.60	1.30
MACKERELS	NORMAL	4.40	2.80	3.20
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.70	0.50	0.60
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.40	0.90	1.10
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.20	3.00	4.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.40	0.60	1.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.00	6.00	7.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.00	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	LIMITED	7.00	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	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.60
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.15	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.40	0.40	0.90
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	3.20	1.50	2.40
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.60	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	1.00	0.30	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.60

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