



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, March 5, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food  
commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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### SUGGESTED OIL REFINERY

#### Petrochemicals Complex On Lamma Island

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The Consultants' report on the suggested oil refinery and petrochemicals plant on Lamma Island concludes that they can be designed and operated to be completely acceptable environmentally, provided there are both strong protective legislation and Government control and there is proper management.

Announcing public release of the report by the London based consulting chemical engineers, Cremer and Warner, a Government spokesman emphasised that no decision had been made on whether to go ahead with the proposal.

The residents of Lamma Island have been informed of the contents of the report and copies have been sent to the applicant companies, the Shell Company of Hong Kong and Textile Alliance Ltd. The latter company submitted a joint suggestion for a refinery-petrochemicals plant with the TOA Oil Company of Japan (TAL/TOA).

"The applicant companies," the spokesman said, "have now to examine the report and decide if they wish to submit firm proposals to the Government."

"If either of them do so," he said, "the advantages and disadvantages will be presented to the public in a Green Paper before a final decision is made by the Government."

"The consultants have made it clear," the spokesman continued, "that they do not consider there is room to accommodate more than one oil refinery and one petrochemicals plant on North Lamma."

/"The full .....

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"The full implications of the suggested plants on the lives and homes of the people of Lamma is a matter of great concern," he stressed "and now that the feasibility of siting the plant on North Lamma has been established a detailed examination into this aspect is being made."

"There must also be a detailed assessment of the fire hazards and of land formation problems," the spokesman added.

Interested non-Government bodies and associations are also being sent copies of the report.

In September 1972, the Government appointed Cremer and Warner to advise on whether material environmental and pollution damage would be likely to result from the establishment of an oil refinery in North Lamma. A summarised form of the consultants' report was published on October 31, 1973, in a Government booklet called "An oil refinery for Lamma Island?"

In their latest report Cremer and Warner say that "North Lamma is uniquely the most appropriate site in the entire colony," the principal criterion being the close proximity of deep water approaches for large oil carriers. The site would involve reclamation of a large area of Luk Chau Wan.

The consultants also say that if the Luk Chau Wan site is adopted "it will still be most desirable to dispose of treated aqueous wastes off the west side and to have a local products barge-leading harbour off Yung Shau (Shue) Wan (as in the Shell proposal)."

On marine risks the report says that shipping movements of hazardous cargos should be "totally controllable". It recommends prohibiting the manufacture of caustic soda/chlorine on the site using the mercury process.

/Cremer and .....

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Cremer and Warner recommend the concept of "best practicable means" as used successfully in the United Kingdom be employed to effect control of hazardous aerial emissions. They conclude that "the appropriate technologies do exist which, if correctly implemented, would provide adequate safeguards against all the potentially obnoxious aerial discharges that might arise."

The consultants have strongly recommended that adequate control be given to the executive of Government to ensure that all industrial installations are disciplined so that they do not affect the quality of the environment.

The report concludes that a refinery/petrochemicals plant could be accommodated on Lamma Island and that there would be major changes in land shape and use. However, with controls, the disposal of all wastes could be achieved with virtually no risk to the surrounding communities.

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STATEMENT ON RICE SUPPLY SITUATION

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The Commerce and Industry Department today issued the following statement to clarify the rice supply situation, and the functions of the rice control scheme:-

STOCK

Rice stocks of all grades are completely adequate to meet any consumption demand in Hong Kong. There are over 74,000 tons in stock and a great deal more in the hands of wholesalers and retailers. Normal consumption is about 1,000 tons a day, therefore there is at least 74 days' supply in stock.

Rice is arriving in Hong Kong at a satisfactory rate and there is no fear at the present time of any serious reduction in our stockpile and therefore our ability to continue to meet demand.

The second quarter quotas will be issued shortly. These will ensure an adequate supply and stockpile.

PRICES

The Government, through DC & I, has a legal control over registered importers which, although designed to ensure a satisfactory import and sale-for-consumption pattern, also enables the department to have an influence on the prices for the various grades of rice offered by importers to wholesalers.

DC & I does not have any legal control over prices at the wholesale and retail level, although it is possible for the department to instruct importers not to sell rice to any wholesaler found to be seriously speculating on prices.

/DC & I can .....

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DC & I can ensure that wholesalers take delivery of rice purchased from importers, and these figures are watched very closely to prevent speculative stock piling by wholesalers. To this end the department is able to restrict credit offered by importers to wholesalers.

It may be seen therefore that the rice control scheme is basically a scheme to ensure supplies of rice to meet Hong Kong's consumption demand and is not a price control mechanism. Nevertheless, the Government has a responsibility in a controlled system of this kind to ensure that the interests of the general public are properly looked after and that companies participating at various levels of transaction in rice sales are not able to manipulate the control procedures for speculative purposes.

#### UNDERCOVER PAYMENTS

The department has been seriously concerned about reports of price and supply speculation. For many months visits by officers of the department have been paid to importers' premises to witness sales and to retail outlets to examine prices. The three main retailers' associations have been asked many times to report to the department any instances of undercover payment demands by wholesalers or any other supply arrangements not considered normal or reasonable.

The department has been willing, and is willing, to investigate any such complaint and if proved has the ability to take action against the wholesaler concerned. But it has received no co-operation from retailers and the retail associations have made no complaint -- verbal, written or anonymous -- to the department about what they now allege is a widespread practice of undercover additional payments for rice deliveries from wholesalers.

/DC & I .....

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DC & I has neither heard from the wholesalers individually nor through their association about any alleged failure by importers to sell rice to them, nor have the wholesalers attempted to answer public allegations by retailers about undercover payments.

The department is now urgently considering further measures to ascertain the truth of the allegations made publicly by the retailers against wholesalers and to this end a senior officer of the department will be meeting representatives of retailers, wholesalers and importers on March 6.

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FULL AIRMAIL RATES FOR UNAUTHORISED AEROGRAMMES

From April 1

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The Post Office announced today that starting from April 1 aerogramme forms which do not conform to the approved standard will no longer be granted the concessionary postage rate of 50 cents to all countries.

Unauthorised aerogramme forms will be subject to full airmail charges, a Post Office spokesman said, and those that do not bear full postage will either be treated as underpaid, and accordingly surcharged, or diverted to surface mail.

The only aerogrammes eligible for the 50-cent postage rate will be those sold by the Post Office or those manufactured under a current licence issued by the Postmaster General, the size and format of which are in accord with a pattern formula adopted for international use by the Universal Postal Union.

The spokesman explained that all current licence holders bear a serial number in the 100 range, and members of the public can identify the approved forms by reading the number shown in the "sender's address" portion of each form.

Local manufacturers were informed of the new requirements in September 1971, and it was considered that sufficient time had elapsed for stocks of the old forms to be used up, he added.

To avoid inconvenience and embarrassment, the spokesman urged members of the public to use only approved aerogramme forms.

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OVER 39,000 CHILDREN IMMUNISED  
In First Phase Of Anti-Polio Campaign

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The first phase of the anti-poliomyelitis campaign 1974 ended on February 16 with 39,009 children immunised.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Medical and Health Department described the total as "satisfactory."

In the last week of the campaign, 7,423 doses of the anti-poliomyelitis vaccine were administered -- 3,263 first-dose, 2,404 second-dose, and 1,756 booster-dose.

Of these, 2,293 doses were administered among children on the Island, 3,233 in Kowloon, and 1,897 in the New Territories.

The first phase of the annual campaign began on January 2 and lasted six weeks.

The second phase, intended as a follow-up, will be carried out later in the year.

Anti-poliomyelitis vaccine is available free throughout the year at all the Department's maternal and child health centres, and the annual campaigns are "intended to remind mothers of the availability of this service, and to take advantage of it."

Campaigns also enable maternal and child health centres to deal with cases that do not come up during normal sessions.

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DC & I DIRECTOR TO VISIT FACTORIES

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The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. David Jordan, will be making a "shop-floor" tour of two factories at Aberdeen tomorrow morning (Wednesday) to see manufacturing operations in progress.

He is due to arrive at 9.45 a.m. at the National Cash Register Manufacturing Company Ltd., 55 Wong Chuk Hang Road (first and second floor), and will be received by the managing director, Mr. T.E. Jones.

The company manufactures electronic computer parts and memory cores. It employs about 470 workers but the number is expected to increase to more than 900 by the end of this year. The major export markets for the firm's products are the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Germany.

The second factory Mr. Jordan will be visiting is Casey Diamonds Ltd., 20 Wong Chuk Hang Road (first floor). He is due to arrive at 11.15 a.m. and will be received by the managing director, Mr. Casey Liu.

The company employs 70 workers on the cutting and polishing of diamonds, and its major export markets are the United States and South-east Asia.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the visits covered.

Please note that the management of Casey Diamonds Ltd. will not allow pictures to be taken in the production areas of the factory. There is no objection, however, to photographs being taken in the reception areas.

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FAREWELL LECTURE BY VISITING PROFESSOR

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Mrs. Helen Perlman, Professor of Social Work at the University of Chicago, who is on a working visit to Hong Kong, will give a farewell lecture at the Chinese Y.M.C.A. at 23 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, tomorrow (Wednesday).

It will begin at 6 p.m.

The title of her lecture will be "Reflections on Social Casework -- Hong Kong and U.S.A." Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Professor Perlman arrived in Hong Kong on December 28 last year and has been giving lectures and holding seminars on various aspects of social work for both students and workers in the profession.

She is the author of many books on social work. The most popular of which is "Social Casework -- A Problem Solving Process" that has been translated into eight languages.

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Note to Editors: You are welcomed to cover Mrs. Perlman's lecture tomorrow.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Tuesday) at sales 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</u>           | <u>Availability<br/>of Supply</u> | <u>Wholesale Price<br/>(\$/catty)</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>China Rice</u>      |                                   | <u>Average</u>                        |
| See How -- old crop    | Good                              | 1.96                                  |
| -- new crop            |                                   | 2.0                                   |
| S.C.Jion -- old crop   | Good                              | 1.90                                  |
| new crop               |                                   | 1.94                                  |
| Po Hgai                | --                                | --                                    |
| Chu Cho                | --                                | --                                    |
| <u>Thai Rice</u>       |                                   |                                       |
| 100% Whole             | Good                              | 1.91                                  |
| 10-15% Broken          | Good                              | 1.89                                  |
| A1 Super Extra         | --                                | --                                    |
| A1 Super               | Good                              | 1.52                                  |
| Whole Glutinous        | --                                | --                                    |
| <u>U.S. Rice</u>       | Good                              | 1.82                                  |
| <u>Australian Rice</u> | Good                              | 1.80                                  |
| <u>Pakistan Rice</u>   | --                                | --                                    |
| <u>Taiwan Rice</u>     | --                                | --                                    |

/Supplies and \*\*\*\*\*

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

| <u>Species</u>   | <u>Availability<br/>of Supply</u> | <u>Wholesale Price<br/>(\$/catty)</u> |            |                |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                  |                                   | <u>High</u>                           | <u>Low</u> | <u>Average</u> |
| Golden Thread    | Good                              | 3.3                                   | 2.3        | 2.7            |
| Big-Eyes         | Good                              | 2.8                                   | 0.8        | 2.0            |
| Squid            | Limited                           | 6.0                                   | 3.0        | 4.0            |
| Hair-Tails       | Normal                            | 2.8                                   | 1.2        | 2.0            |
| Lizard Fishes    | Good                              | 2.5                                   | 1.2        | 1.8            |
| Croakers         | Normal                            | 2.3                                   | 1.0        | 1.6            |
| Conger-Pike-Eels | Good                              | 1.85                                  | 1.5        | 1.7            |
| Melon Coat       | -                                 | -                                     | -          | -              |
| Breams           | Scarce                            | 4.5                                   | 3.0        | 3.8            |
| Yellow Belly     | Good                              | 1.4                                   | 0.6        | 1.1            |
| Mackerels        | Good                              | 5.0                                   | 3.0        | 3.8            |
| Red Goat Fish    | Limited                           | 1.7                                   | 0.8        | 1.2            |
| Fork-Tail        | Good                              | 1.3                                   | 1.0        | 1.1            |
| Horse-Head       | Normal                            | 4.8                                   | 3.0        | 3.8            |
| Melon Seed       | Limited                           | 2.2                                   | 1.8        | 2.0            |
| Pomfrets         | Scarce                            | 7.6                                   | 6.5        | 7.0            |
| Garoupas         | Normal                            | 7.5                                   | 5.0        | 6.0            |
| Yellow Croaker   | -                                 | -                                     | -          | -              |

/Supplies and .....

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of  
Locally Produced Vegetables

| <u>Type</u>          | <u>Availability<br/>of Supply</u> | <u>Wholesale Price<br/>(\$/catty)</u> |            |                |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                      |                                   | <u>High</u>                           | <u>Low</u> | <u>Average</u> |
| Flowering cabbage    | Normal                            | 1.8                                   | 0.6        | 1.2            |
| White cabbage        | Normal                            | 1.2                                   | 0.4        | 0.8            |
| Chinese Lettuce      | Normal                            | 0.8                                   | 0.2        | 0.6            |
| Chinese Kale         | Normal                            | 1.4                                   | 0.5        | 1.0            |
| Spring onion         | Normal                            | 0.8                                   | 0.2        | 0.5            |
| Spinach              | Normal                            | 1.2                                   | 0.4        | 0.8            |
| Water cross          | Normal                            | 1.0                                   | 0.3        | 0.6            |
| Leaf mustard cabbage | Limited                           | 0.9                                   | 0.3        | 0.6            |
| Tomato               | Limited                           | 1.8                                   | 0.6        | 1.4            |

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

|      | <u>Availability<br/>of Supply</u> | <u>Wholesale Price</u> |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
|      |                                   | <u>( \$/ picul)</u>    |
| Pork | Normal                            | (Average)<br>300       |