



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS DEADLINE FOR REMOVAL OF SHEUNG SHUI TANNERIES.....	1
EPCOM BACKS GOVERNMENT ON REMOVAL OF TANNERIES.....	2
MORE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES.....	3
FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO EXPLAIN BUDGET ON T.V.	3
2,000 STUDENTS TO ATTEND CAREERS SEMINAR.....	4
CLINTON UNABLE TO TAKE UP PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION POST...	4
WATER INTERRUPTION IN WONG TAI SIN.....	5

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

- 1 -

TANNERS MUST MOVE BY JULY 31 - N.T.A.

THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS AGAIN AFFIRMED THAT SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING TANNERS MUST MOVE FROM THEIR PRESENT LOCATIONS BY JULY 31, THIS YEAR.

THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 55 TANNERS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING. THE REASON FOR REMOVAL IS THAT THEIR OPERATIONS CAUSE HEAVY POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS IN THE AREA.

IN A LETTER HANDED TO THE TANNERY OPERATORS TODAY (MONDAY) BY STAFF OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, STATES THAT FAILURE TO MOVE BY THIS DATE WILL RESULT IN THE CLEARANCE OF THEIR PREMISES.

MR. CHAMBERS WAS REPLYING TO A LETTER FROM THE TANNERS DATED FEBRUARY 17, WHICH CONTAINED THREE PROPOSALS. THESE WERE : (A) TO CONTINUE OPERATION AT THE PRESENT SITE- (B) TO MOVE TO KWAI CHUNG BUT SUFFICIENT WORKING SPACE SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AND THE MOVE SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY VIABLE TO THE OPERATORS- AND (C) TO FIND OTHER SITES CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WITH WATER AND ELECTRICITY WITHIN THE OPERATORS' MEANS.

HE POINTS OUT THAT THE JULY 31 DEADLINE WAS FIRST NOTIFIED TO THE TANNERY OPERATORS ON DECEMBER 5, 1973 AND THIS WAS REITERATED IN TWO FURTHER LETTERS DATED JULY 8, 1975 AND JANUARY 6 THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION THE REMOVAL DATE HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TAI PO, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, HAS HAD OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WITH THE TANNERS.

+IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO YOU IN 1972 THAT YOU WOULD ONLY BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON YOUR PRESENT SITES ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU ACQUIRE SITES FOR NEW TANNERIES IN THE OFFENSIVE TRADES AREA AT KWAI CHUNG AND THAT YOU MOVE TO THE NEW PREMISES BY THE GIVEN DATE WHICH WAS LATER FIXED AS JULY 31, 1976,+ THE LETTER STATES.

IT GOES ON : +YOU ACCEPTED THESE TERMS AND SIGNED CONDITIONS OF GRANT FOR THE FIVE LOTS AT KWAI CHUNG IN JANUARY 1974. POSSESSION OF THE LOTS WAS GIVEN TO YOU IN MAY, 1974. AT THAT TIME YOU WERE AWARE OF THE AREA AND LOCATION OF THESE SITES AND THE PREMIUM PAYABLE AND SINCE THEN YOU HAVE PAID THE INSTALMENTS OF PREMIUM ON THE DUE DATES AND HAVE OBTAINED APPROVAL FOR YOUR BUILDING PLANS AND CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK FROM THE BUILDING AUTHORITY. THERE IS NO REASON THEREFORE WHY BUILDING WORK SHOULD NOT HAVE BEGUN.+

/MR. CHAMBERS

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

- 2 -

MR. CHAMBERS POINTS OUT THAT THE TANNERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED BY MR. OXLEY THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR SMALL ADDITIONAL AREAS OF LAND ADJOINING THEIR SITES AT KWAI CHUNG TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TANNERIES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE TANNERY GROUPS HAS TAKEN THIS UP WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN.

MR. CHAMBERS ADDS : +IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS LATE STAGE TO CONSIDER ANY ALTERNATIVE SITES.+

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAMBERS SAYS TWO MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE HIS PREVIOUS LETTER AND THERE ARE NOW ONLY FIVE MONTHS REMAINING BEFORE THE DEADLINE OF JULY 31.

+I MUST THEREFORE URGE YOU ONCE AGAIN TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO MAKE POSSIBLE A MOVE BY THAT DATE. THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TAI PO, IS PREPARED TO GIVE ALL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE THIS END.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

EPCOM BACKS GOVERNMENT ON REMOVAL OF TANNERIES
* * * *

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM) HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE CLEARANCE OF THE TANNERIES AT SHEUNG SHUI IF THE OPERATORS HAVE NOT MOVED TO THEIR NEW SITES BY JULY 31, 1976.

AT A RECENT MEETING, MEMBERS OF EPCOM STRONGLY ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO REMOVE THE TANNERIES NOTING THAT THE OWNERS OF THE TANNERIES HAD BEEN GIVEN EVERY ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP THEIR NEW SITES AT KWAI CHUNG.

THESE SITES HAD BEEN GRANTED EARLY IN 1974 ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, BUT NOT ONE OF THE OPERATORS HAD YET STARTED WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACTORY BUILDINGS, A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

+IT IS NEARLY FOUR YEARS SINCE THE OWNERS WERE WARNED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO MOVE TO KWAI CHUNG OR FACE CLOSURE. THEY HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY THEREFORE TO AVOID THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND REDUNDANCIES WHICH FORCEABLE CLEARANCE WOULD ENTAIL.

+THE APPALLING POLLUTION AT SHEUNG SHUI CAN NO LONGER BE TOLERATED AND CONSEQUENTLY MEMBERS OF EPCOM HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH CLEARANCE OF THE TANNERIES WHEN THE DEADLINE EXPIRES,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

- 3 -

EMPLOYMENT UP IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES

A TOTAL OF 253,990 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES IN DECEMBER 1975, ACCORDING TO AN EMPLOYMENT SURVEY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED RECENTLY.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 2,648 PERSONS OR 1.1 PERCENT COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1975.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER ENGAGED, 123,970 WERE IN THE RETAIL SECTOR, 72,146 IN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESSES AND 21,319 IN THE WHOLESALE SECTOR.

THE OTHER 36,555 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN A COMBINATION OF IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ACTIVITIES.

THE SURVEY ALSO RECORDED 99,771 PERSONS BEING ENGAGED IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THE FIGURE WAS HIGHER BY 6,151 PERSONS OR 6.6 PERCENT.

OF THESE 99,771 PERSONS, 83,302 WORKED IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS AND 16,469 IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

DETAILED FIGURES OF EMPLOYMENT BROKEN DOWN BY COMMODITY GROUPS OR NATURE OF BUSINESS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

F.S. TO EXPLAIN BUDGET ON T.V.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL APPEAR ON ALL FIVE TELEVISION CHANNELS IN HONG KONG ON TUESDAY (MARCH 2) EVENING TO EXPLAIN THE BUDGET PROPOSALS HE MADE SIX DAYS AGO.

IN A HALF-HOUR PROGRAMME RECORDED IN THE RADIO HONG KONG TELEVISION STUDIO, HE WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM TWO LEADING HONG KONG JOURNALISTS, MR. KYATANG WOO OF THE SING TAO NEWSPAPERS LIMITED AND MR. DEREK DAVIES, EDITOR OF THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW.

THE PROGRAMME, +A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES+, WILL BE DUBBED INTO CANTONESE FOR SHOWING ON THE THREE CHINESE CHANNELS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

- 4 -

2,000 STUDENTS TO ATTEND CAREERS SEMINAR

A CAREERS SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT HO LAP COLLEGE IN SAN PO KONG ON FRIDAY (MARCH 5) AND SATURDAY (MARCH 6).

THE SEMINAR WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR FRIDAY ONLY. IT IS NOW EXTENDED FOR ONE DAY TO COPE WITH THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM STUDENTS.

MORE THAN 2,000 SENIOR FORM STUDENTS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WONG TAI SIN, SAN PO KONG, KWUN TONG AND SAI KUNG WILL ATTEND.

ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE SEMINAR WILL BE OPENED BY DR. Y.K. CHING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, ON FRIDAY.

IT WILL FEATURE TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS ON HOTEL WORK, APPRENTICESHIP, JOURNALISM, SOCIAL WORK, THE POLICE FORCE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEMINAR, THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE WILL STAGE A MINI MOBILE CAREERS EXHIBITION ON THESE TWO DAYS AT THE SCHOOL, WHICH IS SITUATED AT 15, TSEUK LUK STREET, SAN PO KONG.

.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR AND THE EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 A.M.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CLINTON TO GIVE UP P.S.C. APPOINTMENT

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE SAID TODAY THAT HE WAS SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM ENGLAND THAT MR. M.D.A. CLINTON, CMG, GM, WILL, WITH GREAT REGRET, BE UNABLE FOR MEDICAL REASONS TO RETURN TO HONG KONG TO TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

SIR RONALD HOLMES HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN FOR A FURTHER YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

- 5 -

WATER CUT

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS THIS THURSDAY (MARCH 4) BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. WHEN THE WATERWORKS OFFICE WILL CARRY OUT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHEUNG TAK STREET, SHA TIN PASS ROAD AND CHOI HUNG ROAD, INCLUDING LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE BLOCKS 1 TO 2 AND 20 TO 25 AND KAI MING LAU.

----- 0 -----