



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SECRETARY FOR THE N.T. EXPLAINS WHY TSUEN WAN VILLAGERS MUST PAY PROPERTY TAX	1
APPLICATIONS FOR NEXT TOEFL TEST NOW OPEN	2
ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP EXPORTERS OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO THE U.K.	3
BRITISH WELFARE EXPERT VISITING H.K.	4
SPECIAL POSTAL COUNTERS TO ACCEPT LOCAL CHRISTMAS MAIL ..	5
MANPOWER REPORT ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY NOW ON SALE .	5
LEARNER DRIVERS TO BE BANNED FROM THREE ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG	6
TEMPORARY WATER INTERRUPTION IN WONG TAI SIN	6

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 1 -

NO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VILLAGE HOUSES IN TSUEN WAN
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY RE-AFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO GRANT EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX ON RENTED OUT VILLAGE PROPERTIES IN TSUEN WAN.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS OFFICE, HE SAID THAT THE REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION WAS VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL BEFORE THE DECISION NOT TO GRANT EXEMPTION WAS TAKEN.

MR. AKERS-JONES EXPLAINED THAT PROPERTY TAX WAS NOT A TAX ON THE OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY AS SUCH, BUT ON INCOME FROM THE PROPERTY.

+IT IS RELATED TO THE OTHER FORMS OF TAX ON INCOME WHICH ARE LEVIED IN HONG KONG, FOR EXAMPLE, SALARIES TAX, BUSINESS PROFITS TAX AND INTEREST TAX.

+PROPERTY TAX IS ONLY COLLECTED WHERE A PROPERTY IS LET OUT BY THE OWNER= MOREOVER, IF A PERSON LIABLE TO PAY PROPERTY TAX OPTS FOR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, ALL HIS INCOME FROM THE FOUR TAXABLE SOURCES IS ADDED TOGETHER, AND SUBSTANTIAL ALLOWANCES FOR THE TAX-PAYER AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE DEDUCTED BEFORE THE TAX PAYABLE IS ASSESSED,+ THE SECRETARY SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF PROPERTY-OWNERS IN THE RESITE VILLAGES HAD OPTED FOR PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, AND, AS A RESULT, MOST OF THEM WOULD EITHER HAVE TO PAY NO TAX AT ALL OR WOULD HAVE THEIR LIABILITY GREATLY REDUCED.

+BECAUSE PROPERTY TAX, UNLIKE RATES, IS NOT A TAX ON THE OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO GRANT EXEMPTION TO OWNERS OF VILLAGE HOUSES.+

MR. AKERS-JONES POINTED OUT THAT SOME 8,000 PROPERTY OWNERS IN OTHER PARTS OF TSUEN WAN HAD PAID ABOUT \$11 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAX SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR.

+IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE UNFAIR TO SINGLE OUT VILLAGE PROPERTIES FOR EXEMPTION,+ HE ADDED.

+PROPERTY TAX AS I HAVE EXPLAINED, IS A TAX ON INCOME, WHICH IS PAYABLE BY ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE REST OF TSUEN WAN WHO RENT OUT THEIR PREMISES.

/-IT IS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 2 -

+IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT OWNERS OF THESE VILLAGE PROPERTIES SHOULD MAKE A SIMILAR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S REVENUES, SINCE THEY ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE PROVISION OF SUCH PUBLIC SERVICES AS POLICE, FIRE SERVICES, ROADS, SCHOOLS, CLINICS, STREET LIGHTING AND CLEANSING,+ HE ADDED.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE DECISION BEING CHANGED AND HE URGED THE RESITE VILLAGERS TO SETTLE PROMPTLY THE DEMAND NOTES WHICH THEY HAD RECEIVED.

YESTERDAY (MONDAY) THE SECRETARY SENT A LETTER TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK AGAIN EXPLAINING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE.

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NEXT TOEFL TEST TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY

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THE NEXT T.O.E.F.L. TEST WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

COPIES OF THE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, OR FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP SECTION, BONAVENTURE HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR, 91 LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, 408 J. HOTUNG HOUSE, 4TH FLOOR, 5/15 HANKOW ROAD, KOWLOON.

A CANDIDATE MUST HAND IN HIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM IN PERSON TO THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M. FROM DECEMBER 15 TO DECEMBER 19. HE MUST BRING ALONG HIS PASSPORT OR IDENTITY CARD AND TWO RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

A CANDIDATE MUST PAY A TEST FEE OF \$80 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 23 AT THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION.

PAYMENTS BY CROSSED CHEQUES, MADE PAYABLE TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH THE POST TO THE DIVISION.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 3 -

LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR 1976 TEXTILE SHIPMENT
TO U.K. NOW ACCEPTED

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT IT WILL START ACCEPTING IMMEDIATELY EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR 1976 SHIPMENTS OF RESTRAINED TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THESE LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED AGAINST 1976 PRELIMINARY QUOTAS, AND WILL BE VALID FOR THREE MONTHS INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL 28 DAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECISION TO RECEIVE IMMEDIATELY APPLICATIONS FOR 1976 SHIPMENTS AND TO EXTEND THE 28-DAY VALIDITY PERIOD WAS TAKEN TO ASSIST THOSE TRADERS WHO DID BUSINESS WITH U.K. FIRMS ON A LETTER OF CREDIT BASIS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT RECENTLY THE BANK OF ENGLAND HAD CALLED UPON CLEARING HOUSES IN THE U.K. TO APPLY STRICTLY A RULE THAT BANKS MAY OPEN IRREVOCABLE LETTERS OF CREDIT ONLY AGAINST GOODS FOR WHICH BRITISH IMPORT LICENCES WERE OBTAINED.

+THIS MAY CAUSE SOME DELAYS FOR THE HONG KONG EXPORTER, AND THAT WAS WHY WE DECIDED UPON THESE MEASURES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED TRADERS APPLYING FOR THE HONG KONG EXPORT LICENCE TO STATE ON THEIR APPLICATIONS THE WORDS +1976 SHIPMENTS+ AND +EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION OF CONDITION 4+.

CONDITION 4, HE EXPLAINED, CONCERNED THE 28-DAY VALIDITY PERIOD FROM WHICH THE APPLICANT IS NOW EXEMPT.

EXPORTERS NEEDING FURTHER INFORMATION ARE ASKED TO CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS :-

MISS N.T.Y. LAW	-	ASSISTANT TRADE OFFICER TEL. NO. 5-430719
MR. S.K. FUNG	-	INDUSTRY ASSISTANT TEL. NO. 5-446789
MR. C.K. WONG	-	INDUSTRY ASSISTANT TEL. NO. 5-260672

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 4 -

U.K. EXPERT VISITS H.K. WELFARE SERVICES

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF COVENTRY CITY IN ENGLAND, MR. D.T. WHITE, IS AT THE MOMENT VISITING HONG KONG TO SEE SOME OF THE WELFARE SERVICES HERE.

MR. WHITE, WHOSE TRIP IS SPONSORED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL, IS SPENDING THREE DAYS VISITING VARIOUS OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

HIS VISIT, WHICH STARTED YESTERDAY, INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, AND TOURS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING, THE PO LEUNG KUK, THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE AND THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

TODAY HE VISITED THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, THE CHUK YUEN CHILDREN RECEPTION CENTRE, THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND'S SHELTERED WORKSHOP. HE ALSO VISITED A FIELD UNIT AND FAMILY SERVICES DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

MR. WHITE ROUNDS OFF HIS VISIT TOMORROW WITH A MEETING AND DISCUSSION WITH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE. AFTER THAT, HE WILL GIVE A TALK TO STAFF FROM BOTH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ON +ORGANISATION, FINANCING AND CO-ORDINATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM+.

MR. WHITE, WHO LEAVES HONG KONG ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 11), IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. WHITE'S TALK IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW AT THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING IN HENNESSY ROAD (NEXT TO ASIAN HOUSE). THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL MAKE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION BEFORE MR. WHITE GIVES HIS TALK.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 5 -

SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS EARLY

IF YOU WANT YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS TO REACH YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN HONG KONG BEFORE CHRISTMAS, YOU SHOULD SEND THEM NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 21.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT POSTINGS OF LOCAL MAIL ITEMS AFTER THIS DATE COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

TO EXPEDITE HANDLING AND SUBSEQUENT DELIVERY OF LOCALLY ADDRESSED CHRISTMAS CARDS, SPECIAL COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE.

THESE COUNTERS WILL BE IN OPERATION FROM DECEMBER 13 TO 20.

+ANY QUANTITY OF CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THESE SPECIAL COUNTERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +BUT CUSTOMERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEPARATE THEIR CARDS BETWEEN HONG KONG ADDRESSES AND KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES ADDRESSES.+

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REPORT ON ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

A REPORT ON THE THIRD MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS NOW ON SALE AT \$5 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG.

THE REPORT, PREPARED BY THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, PROVIDES STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE OF THE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN EACH PRINCIPAL JOB, A FORECAST OF TRAINING NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES TO COPE WITH THEM.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN AUGUST 1974 BY THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

- 6 -

BAN ON LEARNER DRIVERS IN KWAI CHUNG

LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ROADS IN KWAI CHUNG STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 11).

THE ROADS WHICH WILL BE CLOSED TO THEM ARE TAI YUEN STREET, THE SECTION OF FU UK ROAD NORTH OF YAU MA HOM ROAD, AND THE SECTION OF TAI PAK TIN STREET FRONTING BLOCK 15 OF SHEK LEI ESTATE.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

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WATER CUT IN WONG TAI SIN

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON, WILL BE INTERRUPTED ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 12) FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO ALLOW A LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET, TSUEK LUK STREET, KING FUK STREET, SAM CHUK STREET AND TSAT PO STREET INCLUDING SAN PO KONG FACTORY BLOCKS 5-6.

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