



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Kowloon Tsai fire victims start moving into their new homes tomorrow .....	1
Special "switch off" stickers being distributed in save fuel drive .....	3
Mail express service introduced to U.S.A. ....	4
More immigration facilities to be provided in New Territories .	5
Local officers on study tour of Southeast Asia .....	6
Special Education Centre opening tomorrow .....	7
Temporary water interruption in Kowloon City .....	7
December 1973 — driest on record .....	8

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 1 -

KOWLOON TSAI FIRE VICTIMS MOVE INTO NEW HOMES TOMORROW

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Processing for intake into public housing or licensed areas for the Kowloon Tsai squatter fire victims has been completed and the first ten families will be able to move into either Kwai Fong or Lam Tin Estate tomorrow.

These families originally lived in the Man Heung Yuen Area, which had been screened for clearance. The other 257 families from the Man San Lane and Sai Man Lane Areas who are also eligible for public housing will move into the same estates from Monday (January 7).

Licensed area sites will be allocated to another 39 families in the next two or three days.

Cash allowances from the Emergency Relief Fund will be paid out to the victims tomorrow and on Friday at the Squatter Control Office at Li Cheng Uk Estate.

Families who have been offered public housing will get the re-equipment grant at the new rate of \$100 per person.

Families to be allocated licensed area sites will each get a basic re-accommodation grant of \$1,250 in addition to the re-equipment allowance.

Meanwhile, Housing Department staff are processing the Ma Tsai Hang fire victims for rehousing.

Of the 94 families affected by the fire, 87 families - comprising 376 people who were genuine licencees of the area - will be offered public housing.

/The remaining .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 2 -

The remaining seven families, comprising 27 people, will be offered licensed area accommodation if they are genuinely homeless.

At present, about 120 victims of the fire are staying at the Yan Oi Transit Centre for temporary shelter, the other are staying with relatives or friends.

Staff of the Housing Department are also screening the victims of the squatter fire which broke out on the hillside near Lam Tin Estate last Monday. All 40 structures destroyed in the fire were unsurveyed and illegal.

The 16 families comprising 60 people affected will be offered licensed area accommodation.

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A LITTLE REMINDER TO SWITCH OFF THOSE UNNECESSARY LIGHTS

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More than 200,000 special "switch off" stickers are being distributed by the government to various organisations and firms throughout Hong Kong as part of its continuing drive to economise on the use of fuel.

The stickers, in English and Chinese, are designed to be placed beside electric light and power switches to remind people of the need to save fuel.

They are being distributed to many commercial and industrial undertakings, factories, mutual aid and area committees and all government departments.

The sticker - an inch square - exhorts people in both languages to switch off and save.

Twenty-five thousand posters also carrying the theme of saving fuel now for later, are being distributed throughout Hong Kong.

A government spokesman said today that the current drive to save fuel will continue to encourage people to play their part in making voluntary restraints, no matter how small.

"The more we save now," he said, "the less chance there is of mandatory restrictions being imposed at a later stage."

The spokesman said it was estimated that the overall savings achieved so far - both voluntary and mandatory - amounted to some five per cent with another one per cent to come from daylight saving. But the anticipated shortfall in fuel supplies to Hong Kong in the first quarter is 10 per cent.

The difference, he said, would still have to be made good and for this reason "economy must be the watchword".

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 4 -

SPEEDPOST LINK UP WITH USA

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A speedpost service has been introduced between Hong Kong and the United States, with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation being the first customer.

According to a Post Office spokesman, items posted in Hong Kong by 9.30 a.m. are expected to be delivered before noon the next day in major cities in the United States.

The cost of the service, which will be arranged on a contract basis, is \$100 basic plus \$20 for each pound in weight.

Speedpost was first introduced in September last year between Hong Kong and the United Kingdom and has proved successful.

Times of collection and delivery are specified and agreed with the customer utilising pre-determined flights and special facilities afforded by the postal administration delivering the packages.

Those wishing to make use of these facilities may contact the General Post Office on telephone No. 5-237441.

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IMMIGRATION FACILITIES IN N.T. TO BE EXPANDED

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A long-term programme is being prepared for the provision of more immigration offices, particularly in the New Territories where considerable development is envisaged in the next few years.

Disclosing this today, the Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, said branch offices would be opened in due course in Sha Tin and Tuen Mun as part of the department's continuing policy to provide convenient immigration facilities to residents in their own neighbourhood.

"Investigations are also being carried out into the feasibility of providing a weekly service on Cheung Chau, and the possible establishment of a branch office at Tai Po," he said.

He was speaking at the opening of the department's latest branch office in Yuen Long, the fourth to be opened in the past twelve months.

The new branch office is located at A-B, Wah Cheung Building, ground floor, Castle Peak Road, and will provide the same full range services as other branch offices.

Mr. Collard said fitting-out of another office at Sham Shui Po would start fairly soon, and a new office in Kowloon City would be set up in April to replace the existing one in the area.

The Yuen Long branch office was officially declared open by Mr. Chan Yat-san, Chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk.

Mr. Chan said the new office reflected the rapid development of various districts and the increase in industrial, commercial and tourist activities in the New Territories.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Collard's speech are boxed for collection together with copies of Mr. Chan Yat-san's address.

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 6 -

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ON STUDY TOUR

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Fourteen officers from the Home Affairs Department and the New Territories Administration, including four women, leave today (Wednesday) on a three-week study tour of Southeast Asia.

The tour, the third in a series of annual study visits to Southeast Asia, will be concentrated primarily in Malaysia and Singapore. Its purpose is to provide officers of the two departments with the opportunity to compare their approaches to problems and their work methods with those of other governments.

Leading the group is Mr. David T.K. Wong, Deputy Director for Home Affairs.

Other members are:

- Mrs. Ophelia Rahmin, City District Officer, (C.D.O., Central);
- Mr. Victor Yung Chuk-hung, Assistant District Officer, (D.O., Sai Kung);
- Mr. Wong Nai-pang, Liaison Officer Class I, (D.O., Tsuen Wan);
- Mr. Ken Tang Kam-yan, Acting Senior Land Assistant, (D.O., Tsuen Wan);
- Mr. Wong Yiu-wing, Acting Senior Executive Officer, (City District Commissioner, Hong Kong Office);
- Mr. James Kwan Kin-cheung, Assistant City District Officer, (C.D.O., Kwun Tong);
- Mr. Parrish Kwan Kang-kwan, Assistant City District Officer, (Tai Kok Tsui, Sub-office);
- Mrs. Wei Kwok Chun-yue, Executive Officer, (C.D.O., Kowloon City);
- Mrs. Tang Tsang Bik-ying, Executive Officer, (C.D.O., Eastern);
- Miss Carrie Yau Sheung-mui, Executive Officer, (C.D.O., Wong Tai Sin);
- Mr. Tam Sik-lim, Liaison Officer, (C.D.O., Wanchai);
- Mr. U Cheuk-leun, Assistant Mediation Officer, (H.A.D.); and
- Mr. Sin Hon-bun, Liaison Assistant, (C.D.O., Shamshuipo).

The party is expected to return to Hong Kong on January 22.

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/7 .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 7 -

OPENING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE

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The Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, will open the Special Education Services Centre at 10.00 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

The Centre is on the second floor of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Government Primary School (Western), Hospital Road, Hong Kong.

It provides diagnostic and remedial services for children with learning difficulties, and is manned by officers of the Education Department's Special Education Section.

A three-day exhibition of special teaching aids will also be opened at the same time. Among the exhibits are remedial and specially adapted materials designed for children with learning problems related to visual, auditory, physical and speech handicaps and school failures.

The exhibition will be held at the adjacent Sai Ying Pun Government Primary School.

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Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are invited to cover the opening ceremony and the exhibition.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises in Kowloon City will be interrupted for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Saturday (January 5) to enable a leakage test to be carried out in the area.

The affected area is bounded by Prince Edward Road, Junction Road, Carpenter Road and Nga Tsin Long Road.

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/8 .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 8 -

DRIEST DECEMBER ON RECORD

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Last month was the driest December ever recorded by the Royal Observatory, with the mean relative humidity dropping to 51 per cent - nearly 20 per cent below normal.

This winter season has been exceptionally dry because the continental anticyclone over China was stronger and more persistent than usual, according to Dr. P.C. Chin, Senior Scientific Officer of the Royal Observatory.

It resulted in a sustained period of cold air streams from the north, he said. Such static condition in pressure distribution is known in meteorological terms as a 'blocking situation'.

At this time of the year, anticyclones over China usually move eastward into the Pacific, said Dr. Chin; this would bring to Hong Kong more humid and warmer weather. However, there is at present little indication that there would be changes in the situation for the next few days, he added.

The dry condition in December has brought with it extreme fire hazards. The fire warning signal was on throughout the month except for a short period of 11 hours on December 12.

/During .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

- 9 -

During the last 11 days of December, the fire warning signal continued to be red. The mean relative humidity for those days was 32 per cent, while during the same period in 1972, the average recording was as high as 82 per cent.

The humidity reading of 14 per cent at 1 p.m. on December 31 was a record low for December, equalled only by a December reading in 1898.

The lowest humidity reading ever recorded by the Royal Observatory was 10 per cent, recorded on January 16, 1959.

No rain was recorded last month, though we can usually expect five days of rain in December.

Last month was also the sunniest December in 35 years, with a total of 268.4 hours of sunlight. It also was the December with the clearest sky since 1898, with an average cloud amount of 23 per cent, against the normal of 55 per cent for the month.

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Wednesday, January 2, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices and Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Wednesday) 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 of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien - old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Limited	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	1.42
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.42

/Supplies and .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Normal	5.50	3.50	4.80
Big-Eyes	Good	2.50	0.60	1.80
Squid	Limited	6.80	3.00	4.50
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.60	1.50	2.20
Lizard Fishes	Limited	3.40	1.00	2.40
Croakers	Normal	2.60	0.70	1.60
Conger-Pike-Eels	Limited	3.40	2.60	2.80
Melon Coat	Normal	3.30	1.40	3.00
Breams	Limited	4.80	3.50	4.50
Yellow Belly	Good	1.40	0.75	1.00
Mackerels	Normal	5.00	3.20	4.50
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.80	0.70	2.00
Fork-Tail	Good	1.60	1.00	1.20
Horse-Head	Limited	6.50	4.00	5.00
Melon Seed	Normal	3.00	1.40	2.60
Pomfrets	Scarce	10.00	8.00	9.00
Garoupas	Normal	6.50	5.20	6.00
Yellow Croaker	Scarce	8.00	6.00	7.00

/Supplies and .....

Wednesday, January 2, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	3.0	1.2	2.4
White cabbage	Limited	1.6	0.8	1.2
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
Chinese Kale	Limited	1.7	0.6	1.0
Spring onion	Limited	1.6	0.7	1.2
Spinach	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.6
Water cress	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.4
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.5	0.5	1.0
Tomato	Limited	1.8	1.0	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>( \$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Normal	285

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