



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1974.

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NEW HOUSING AUTHORITY SECRETARY NAMED

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A PROFESSIONAL OFFICER HAS BEEN RECRUITED TO FILL THE POST OF SECRETARY, HOUSING AUTHORITY.

HE IS MR. BASIL J. WRATTEN, 54.

HE WILL FORMALLY REPLACE MR. HAIDER BARMA, THE OUTGOING SECRETARY WHO IS BEING POSTED TO THE ECONOMIC BRANCH AS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FROM OCTOBER 14, 1974.

MR. WRATTEN IS A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS AND AN ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF HOUSING MANAGERS.

HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED FOR MOST OF THE TIME IN HIS CAREER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT.

PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT, MR. WRATTEN WAS THE DIRECTOR OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT IN BASINGSTOKE, WHICH IS THE FASTEST GROWING TOWN IN ENGLAND.

BEFORE THAT HE WAS CITY ESTATES SURVEYOR, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSING ESTATES AND OTHER PROPERTIES OF THE CITY OF OXFORD.

EARLIER IN HIS CAREER HE WAS THE DEPUTY CHIEF ESTATE OFFICER IN STEVENAGE NEW TOWN WHERE HE WAS CONCERNED WITH COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

MR. WRATTEN ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF LAST MONTH. HE IS MARRIED WITH A SON AND TWO DAUGHTERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. B.J. WRATTEN ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION LATER THIS EVENING.

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RECORD NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE  
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT GAVE IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE TO 1,061,785 TRAVELLERS IN AUGUST -- A RECORD FOR ANY SINGLE MONTH.

THERE WERE 541,926 ARRIVALS AND 519,859 DEPARTURES.

THE PREVIOUS RECORD WAS SET IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WHEN 1,060,149 TRAVELLERS WERE RECORDED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID THAT TRAFFIC FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR TOTALLED 6,777,686, UP ONLY FOUR PER CENT ON THE FIGURE, 6,492,994, FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

ALL THESE FIGURES EXCLUDED TRAVELLERS IN TRANSIT AND PASSENGERS WHO WERE REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND.

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G.C.E. EXAMINATION DATE ADVANCED  
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THE ORDINARY LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATION ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE MORNING OF JANUARY 8, 1975 HAS NOW BEEN ADVANCED TO THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 3, 1975.

CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THIS CHANGE WHICH FOLLOWS A TIME-TABLE CHANGE ADVISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN CANDIDATES' ADMISSION FORMS.

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FIRE RATE RISING : WARNS FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN  
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THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF FIRES HAS GONE UP FROM 14 IN SEPTEMBER TO ALMOST 19 TO DATE THIS MONTH, A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WARNED TODAY.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF OCTOBER THERE HAD BEEN 115 FIRES, CLOSE TO HALF OF WHICH HAD OCCURRED LAST WEEKEND. THERE WERE 421 FIRES IN SEPTEMBER.

+THIS RISE IS MOST DISAPPOINTING,+ HE STATED, +AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE URGING THE POPULATION TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL BECAUSE OF THE DRY WEATHER.+

HE ADDED: +MOST FIRES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO HUMAN NEGLIGENCE AND THEREFORE AVOIDABLE.+

HE SAID PEOPLE'S HABITS, SUCH AS THROWING LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES AWAY WITHOUT THOUGHT, ALTHOUGH ANTI-SOCIAL, WERE LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE FIRES DURING THE WET SEASON, BUT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF LOW HUMIDITY, EVEN THE SMALLEST SPARK COULD LEAD TO FIRE.

+IF THE ONE HABIT WERE DISCONTINUED,+ HE DECLARED, +THERE WOULD BE 40 PER CENT LESS FIRES IN HONG KONG.+

HE APPEALED TO SMOKERS TO MAKE SURE CIGARETTE BUTTS AND MATCHES WERE PROPERLY OUT BEFORE DISPOSING OF THEM.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANOTHER MAJOR CAUSE OF FIRE IN HONG KONG WAS ELECTRICAL FAULTS, MANY OF WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO OVERLOADING OF SOCKETS WITH TOO MANY APPLIANCES OR NEGLECTING TO KEEP APPLIANCES AND WIRING PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

HE APPEALED TO PICNICKERS AND OTHER VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAVE BARBECUES. +CHOOSE A SENSIBLE AREA TO BUILD A BARBECUE FIRE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +AND MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS WATCHING IT ALL THE TIME. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE AREA, PUT IT OUT WITH WATER AND EARTH, A SMALL EMBER LEFT BURNING COULD EASILY RESULT IN A BIG FIRE.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PEAK DANGER PERIOD LASTS FROM OCTOBER TO APPROXIMATELY CHINESE NEW YEAR, AND WAS DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF HUMIDITY. +DURING THE PERIOD,+ HE SAID, +FIRE IS FROM TWO TO FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN DURING THE NON-PEAK PERIOD.+

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC OF WHAT THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. FRED WATSON, SAID RECENTLY -- THAT 1974 COULD TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE WORST FIRE YEARS ON RECORD -- AND SAID THE PROBLEM WAS GREATER BECAUSE OF THE WATER SITUATION. +EVERYONE MUST BE FIRE PREVENTION CONSCIOUS,+ HE STATED.

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MORE POWERFUL LIGHT BEACONS BEING INSTALLED  
TO GUIDE SHIPS  
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IMPROVEMENT WORKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON A SERIES OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS STRETCHING ALONG EAST LAMMA ISLAND CHANNEL TO MAKE IT EASIER AND SAFER FOR VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA.

WHEN COMPLETED IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, THE LIGHT BEAMS FROM THE NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WILL REACH TWICE AS FAR OUT TO SEA THAN AT PRESENT AND WILL BENEFIT ALL VESSELS, PARTICULARLY CONTAINERSHIPS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL, AND OIL TANKERS DELIVERING OIL TO THE SHELL COMPANY'S STORAGE AT AP LEI CHAU.

MR. JAMES DEAKIN, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S NAVIGATIONAL AIDS SECTION SAID THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT AT SIX LOCATIONS.

THE MAJOR WORK IN THE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IS THE INSTALLATION OF AN AUTOMATIC LIGHTHOUSE ON AP LEI CHAU. CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE LIGHTHOUSE HAS ALREADY BEGUN AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

THE OTHER FIVE PLACES INVOLVED IN THE SCHEME ARE YUEN KOK, WONG CHU KOK, SHEK KOK TSUI, MAGAZINE ISLAND AND KAU YI CHAU. THE RANGE OF THE NAVIGATIONAL AIDS PROVIDED ON THESE LOCATIONS IS TO BE INCREASED, SOME OF THEM FROM FIVE TO 10 MILES, AND OTHERS FROM SEVEN TO 10 MILES, AND FROM 14 TO 20 MILES.

MR. DEAKIN SAID THE NAVIGATIONAL AID ON MAGAZINE ISLAND WOULD BE MOVED TO A MORE FAVOURABLE POSITION.

+SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THE WAH FU ESTATE, THE INTENSITY OF THE BEAM FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE ON THE ISLAND HAS BEEN REDUCED CONSIDERABLY AT NIGHT BY THE CLARE OF THE BACKGROUND LIGHTS FROM DOMESTIC FLATS MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR VESSELS PASSING THROUGH THE AREA TO SEE THE BEACON,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THERE ARE NOW 174 NAVIGATIONAL AIDS INSTALLED IN HONG KONG WATERS, INCLUDING WAQLAN LIGHTHOUSE WHICH IS A MAJOR NAVIGATIONAL AID IN HONG KONG. THIS FIGURE COMPARES WITH 143 IN 1971-72, AND 152 IN 1972-73.

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DIRECTOR OF ROYAL OBSERVATORY TO ATTEND MANILA CONFERENCE

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR. GORDON BELL, AND DR. CHIN PING-CHUEN, OF THE RESEARCH DIVISION, WILL BE LEAVING FOR MANILA THIS AFTERNOON TO ATTEND THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE.

MR. BELL IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE AND DR. CHIN IS A MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH GROUP ON JOINT TYPHOON STUDIES.

THE MEETING, WHICH WILL START TOMORROW, WILL LAST SEVEN DAYS. IT IS A JOINT PROJECT OF E.C.A.F.E. (ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST) AND W.M.O. (WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION).

THE MAIN TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OBSERVATIONAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES, PROGRESS IN TROPICAL CYCLONE AND FLOOD FORECASTING, CO-ORDINATION OF REGIONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND PROBLEMS ON COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RELIEF.

BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST CURRENTLY BEING SHOWN IN TYPHOON MODIFICATION BY BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PHILIPPINES, A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TYPHOON MODIFICATION WILL BE HELD AFTER THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE SESSION.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL PRESENT A PAPER AND WILL ALSO SHOW A RADAR FILM TAKEN BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TROPICAL CYCLONES IN THIS AREA.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 33,677 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 50 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 64,787 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 25,839 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 49,648 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 51.2 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

A TRACE OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 1,372.7 MM (54.04 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,036.1 MM (80.16 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 32.6 PER CENT.

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TWO PRE-WAR BUILDINGS IN WESTERN CONDEMNED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NOS. 22 AND 24 WING LOK STREET, HONG KONG TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS WERE INSPECTED SUBSEQUENT TO A REPORT RECEIVED.

IT WAS FOUND THAT THERE WERE SEVERE FRACTURES AND WEAKNESSES IN THE PARTY AND EXTERNAL LOAD BEARING BRICK WALLS INDICATING RECENT OUTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE JOINT KITCHEN BLOCK AND MAIN WALLS.

+THE EXTENT OF THE MOVEMENT IS SUCH THAT IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS A RISK OF IMMINENT FAILURE LEADING TO A COLLAPSE,+ HE SAID.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 15, 1974 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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THE FIRST PLAY STREET IN HONG KONG

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PILOT PROJECT TO INTRODUCE THE FIRST PLAY STREET FOR CHILDREN IN HONG KONG WILL START NEXT WEEK.

DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR CENTRAL, MR. BERNARD MUI, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT THE G.I.S. 35 MM THEATRE AT 3 PM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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MUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE  
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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (MONDAY) 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) AVERAGE
<b>CHINA RICE</b>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
<b>THAI RICE</b>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.82
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 : SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 : SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
<b>U.S. RICE</b>	GOOD	1.92
<b>AUSTRALIAN RICE</b>	GOOD	2.00
<b>PAKISTAN RICE</b>	GOOD	-
<b>TAIWAN RICE</b>	GOOD	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)		
AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND .....

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.50	2.00	2.80
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.70	1.50	2.00
SQUID	GOOD	4.00	1.00	2.20
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	1.30	0.30	0.70
LIZARD FISHES	GOOD	2.20	0.50	1.30
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.60	0.80	1.10
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.80	1.10	1.50
MELON COAT	---	---	---	---
BREAMS	SCARCE	4.80	2.60	3.70
YELLOW BELLY	LIMITED	1.50	0.80	1.10
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.30	1.40	2.00
RED GOAT FISH	SCARCE	0.70	0.40	0.60
FORK-TAIL	---	---	---	---
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	5.00	1.50	3.40
MELON SEED	LIMITED	1.60	1.00	1.20
POMFRETS	SCARCE	7.00	5.20	6.50
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	6.00	7.00
YELLOW CROAKER	NORMAL	4.70	3.00	4.00

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	LIMITED	2.00	0.70	1.40
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.40	0.50	1.00
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
WATER SPINACH	LIMITED	0.50	0.15	0.30
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	2.00	0.80	1.50
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	2.00	0.50	1.20
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	2.00	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	SCARCE	3.00	1.00	2.00
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.80	2.20	3.00
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.00
CHINESE SPINACH	LIMITED	0.90	0.30	0.60
TOMATO	SCARCE	3.00	1.40	2.20

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