



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1977

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WATER RESTRICTIONS FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY
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THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT WATER RESTRICTIONS WOULD COME INTO FORCE NEXT WEDNESDAY (JUNE 1).

HE SAID SUPPLIES WOULD BE CUT OFF AT 10 P.M. AND RESTORED AT 6 A.M. EACH DAY, WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING A 10 PER CENT SAVING IN DEMAND.

MR. TUCKER WARNED THAT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS WOULD BECOME NECESSARY IF THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT SOON IN OUR RAPIDLY-FALLING RESERVOIR STORAGE LEVELS.

+THE APPROVED INITIAL RESTRICTIONS ARE MILD, AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE GREAT HARDSHIP TO ANYONE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THERE IS EVERY LIKELIHOOD THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BECOME MORE SEVERE FAIRLY QUICKLY IF WE DO NOT GET SOME GOOD RAINFALL SOON ON OUR WATER CATCHMENT AREAS — AND UNLESS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO CUT DOWN ON CONSUMPTION AND AVOID WASTE.+

MR. TUCKER STRESSED THAT THE DECISION TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN ONLY AFTER A VERY CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. +WE HAVE NOW REACHED A STAGE WHERE IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE RESTRICTIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID : +EARLIER THIS MONTH, WHEN I ANNOUNCED THE PROBABILITY THAT WATER RESTRICTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPOSED EARLY IN JUNE, I ROUGHLY ESTIMATED THAT IF WE GOT BETWEEN 150 AND 200 MM (6 TO 8 INCHES) OF GOOD RAINFALL ONTO OUR CATCHMENT AREAS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO POSTPONE THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS.

+THAT MUCH RAINFALL, IF IT HAD ALL GONE INTO OUR RESERVOIRS, WOULD HAVE ADDED SOME 3,000 TO 4,000 MILLION GALLONS TO OUR STORAGE.

+IN THE EVENT, IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS WE HAVE RECEIVED A FAIR BIT OF RAINFALL, BUT VERY LITTLE INDEED HAS BEEN FALLING WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT FALL.

+MOST OF IT HAS COME IN THE URBAN AREAS, AND VIRTUALLY NONE OF IT HAS ACTUALLY REACHED OUR RESERVOIRS.

+AS A RESULT, IN THE WEEKS SINCE I MADE MY ANNOUNCEMENT, THE TOTAL RAINFALL YIELD TO OUR RESERVOIR STORAGE HAS BEEN A MERE 833 MILLION GALLONS,+ HE SAID.

AS AN EXAMPLE, MR. TUCKER POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE HEAVY DOWNPOURS ON THE MORNING OF TUESDAY THIS WEEK (MAY 24), THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S GAUGES RECORDED A HEALTHY 72.6 MM OF RAIN.

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BUT AT PLOVER COVE, WHICH IS HONG KONG'S BIGGEST OPERATIONAL RESERVOIR, ONLY 4 MM WERE RECORDED -- WHICH MEANT PRACTICALLY NOTHING IN TERMS OF STORAGE.

MR. TUCKER ADDED : +IT SHOULD ALSO BE REMEMBERED THAT HONG KONG HAD JUST BEEN THROUGH ITS WORST DROUGHT FOR SOMETHING LIKE 90 YEARS, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE GROUND WAS LITERALLY BONE DRY.

+THEREFORE MOST OF THE RAINFALL DURING THE MONTH WAS ABSORBED INTO THE SOIL AND DID NOT EVEN BEGIN TO SEEP INTO THE RESERVOIRS.

+THE END RESULT HAS BEEN THAT WE SIMPLY DID NOT GET ENOUGH WATER IN THE RESERVOIRS TO AVOID RESTRICTIONS.+

THIS MORNING THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 31,141 MILLION GALLONS, OR 46.2 PER CENT OF THEIR FULL STORAGE CAPACITY -- FAR BELOW THE 42,157 MILLION GALLONS OR 62.6 PER CENT RECORDED AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

MR. TUCKER SAID : +THIS MEANS THAT IF WE CONTINUE TO CONSUME WATER AT THE PRESENT RATE, AND FAIL TO GET VERY GOOD RAINFALL YIELDS THIS SUMMER -- WHICH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAS PREDICTED WILL BE A DRY ONE -- WE WILL BE TAKING A GREAT RISK OF VERY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS DURING THE DRY WINTER TO COME.

+IN FACT, AS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS POINTED OUT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEEK, SUPPLIES COULD BE LIMITED TO 16 HOURS A DAY THROUGHOUT THE WINTER EVEN IF WE GET ALL THE RAINFALL FORECAST BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

+IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO CAREFULLY HUSBAND OUR LIMITED RESOURCES NOW SO THAT WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH WATER IN STORAGE TO SEE US THROUGH THE WINTER, WHEN WE CANNOT DEPEND ON ANY SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL,+ HE SAID.

MR. TUCKER SAID THAT, AS IN PAST YEARS, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO MAINTAIN A 24-HOUR SUPPLY TO INDUSTRIAL ZONES BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

THE INDUSTRIAL ZONES WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FULL WATER SUPPLY DURING THE RESTRICTION HOURS ARE :-

HONG KONG

A. WONG CHUK HANG

NORTH BOUNDED BY YIP KAN STREET AND TONG BIN LANE

EAST BOUNDED BY YIP FAT STREET

SOUTH BOUNDED BY HEUNG YIP ROAD

WEST BOUNDED BY ABERDEEN POLICE STATION

/B. QUARRY BAY

B. QUARRY BAY

- (A) INDUSTRIAL AREA ON BOTH EAST AND WEST SIDE OF WESTLAND ROAD.
- (B) INDUSTRIAL AREA ON THE NORTH, EAST AND WEST SIDE OF SHIPYARD LANE.

C. CHAI WAN

- (A) INDUSTRIAL AREA BOUNDED BY HONG MAN STREET, NING FOO STREET AND KUT SHING STREET.
- (B) INDUSTRIAL AREA BOUNDED BY SUN YIP STREET AND ON YIP STREET.

KOWLOON

D. CHEUNG SHA WAN

NORTH BOUNDED BY CHING CHEUNG ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY TSAP FAI STREET
KWONG CHEONG STREET AND
CHEUNG SHA WAN PATH
SOUTH BOUNDED BY LAI CHI KOK ROAD
WEST BOUNDED BY KOM TSUN STREET AND
CHEUNG MOU STREET

E. SAN PO KONG

NORTH BOUNDED BY CHOI HUNG ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY SZE MEI STREET
SOUTH BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD
WEST BOUNDED BY SHEUNG HEI STREET AND
TSEUK LUK STREET

F. KWUN TONG

NORTH BOUNDED BY KWUN TONG ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY KING YIP STREET
SOUTH BOUNDED BY HOI BUN ROAD AND WAI YIP STREET
WEST BOUNDED BY SHUN YIP STREET

NEW TERRITORIES

G. CHAI WAN KOK

NORTH BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY TAI CHUNG ROAD
SOUTH BOUNDED BY HARBOUR FRONTAGE
WEST BOUNDED BY MILESTONE 10

H. TSUEN WAN

NORTH BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY TEXACO ROAD
SOUTH BOUNDED BY TEXACO ROAD
WEST BOUNDED BY MA TAU PA STREET,
LUEN YAN STREET AND
KWAN MUN HAU STREET

I. KWAI CHUNG

NORTH BOUNDED BY WO YI HOP ROAD
EAST BOUNDED BY WO YIP HOP ROAD AND
CASTLE PEAK ROAD
SOUTH BOUNDED BY TAI LIN PAI ROAD
WEST BOUNDED BY KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND
CHEUNG WING STREET

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J. TUEN MUN

NORTH BOUNDED BY ROAD D5 (NEW ROAD)

EAST BOUNDED BY RIVER CHANNEL

SOUTH BOUNDED BY HUNG CHEUNG ROAD

WEST BOUNDED BY PILLAR POINT ROAD

MR. TUCKER SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT INDIVIDUAL FACTORIES OUTSIDE THE MAIN INDUSTRIAL ZONES WOULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THE RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE MOST, IF NOT ALL, HAD CONSIDERABLE WATER STORAGE FACILITIES TO TIDE THEM OVER THE NIGHT-TIME CUT.

+IN ANY EVENT, WE HAVE ASKED THE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS TO CONTACT US IF ANY DIFFICULTY IS EXPERIENCED BY THEIR MEMBERS SO THAT SOME ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT,+ HE SAID.

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CHEUNG CHAU RECREATION GROUND

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECOND STAGE OF THE CHEUNG CHAU RECREATION GROUND MAY BE SPEEDED UP FOLLOWING THE SUBSIDENCE OF A SMALL PART OF THE SURFACE AND AN EARTH BANK ON LAND FORMED TO EXTEND THE EXISTING RECREATION AREA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT MR. W.T. MOK, SAID TODAY THAT THE GROUND HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER ABOUT 10,000 SQUARE METRES BY EXCAVATING SURROUNDING EMBANKMENTS AND RECLAIMING FORMER TERRACED AGRICULTURAL LAND.

+THE AREA WHICH HAS SUBSIDED IS ABOUT 100 SQUARE METRES OF THE NEW MINI-SOCCER PITCH BUILT ON THE FORMED LAND,+ MR. MOK SAID.

+A SIMILAR AREA OF CHUNAM SURFACING ON THE TEMPORARY EARTH BANK ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE RECREATION GROUND FAILED DUE TO THE PRESSURE OF UNDERGROUND WATER.

+IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT, SPECIAL SURFACE AND SUB-SURFACE DRAINS WILL BE INSTALLED AND RETAINING WALLS WILL BE BUILT AROUND THE SITE,+ HE SAID.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND STAGE ARE BEING DRAWN UP AND TENDERS WILL BE CALLED IN JULY.

+BUT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED,+ MR. MOK SAID, +SOME WORK THAT WE WERE GOING TO DO IN THE SECOND STAGE ON THE AFFECTED AREAS WILL NOW BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

AN INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED THAT THE SUBSIDENCE COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY RAIN WATER DRAINING INTO TWO PONDS AND AN OLD AGRICULTURAL DITCH FROM THE TERRACED FARMLAND THAT HAS BEEN RECLAIMED.

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FIVE MORE DESIGNATED TRADES TO BE SPECIFIED SOON

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THE TRADES OF ELECTRICIAN, MACHINIST, FITTER, TOOL AND DIE MAKER, AND INSTRUMENT MECHANIC MAY SOON BE SPECIFIED AS DESIGNATED TRADES UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

THIS WILL BRING TO 28 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DESIGNATED TRADES.

THIS ADVANCE NOTICE WAS GIVEN BY MR. HORACE KNIGHT, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (INDUSTRIAL TRAINING), IN A LUNCHEON TALK TO THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CLUB TODAY.

HE REVEALED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL BE ADVISING THE GOVERNOR TO DESIGNATE THESE TRADES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR. KNIGHT URGED EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN THESE TRADES TO TAKE ON YOUNG PERSONS FOR TRAINING AND TO MAKE USE OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK PROVIDED IN THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE BY VOLUNTARILY REGISTERING THE CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

HE SAID: +MORE SPECIFICALLY I WOULD LIKE TO SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION IN PROMOTING APPRENTICE TRAINING IN THESE AND OTHER TRADES WITHIN YOUR OWN ORGANISATIONS.+

MR. KNIGHT POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE 400 CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP IN NON-DESIGNATED TRADES AND 1,200 IN DESIGNATED TRADES REGISTERED UNDER THE ORDINANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRACTS REGISTERED WAS STILL A FAR CRY FROM INDUSTRY'S TOTAL ANNUAL NEED OF ABOUT 6,000 ADDITIONAL CRAFTSMEN AND 2,500 ADDITIONAL TECHNICIANS.

+I AM SURE I DO NOT NEED TO TELL YOU THAT THE TRAINING OF SKILLED MANPOWER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A COMPANY IS AS MUCH A FUNCTION OF MANAGEMENT AS ANY OTHER NOR TO REMIND YOU THAT IT IS ALSO ONE WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS MOST OFTEN OVERLOOKED,+ HE CONTINUED.

+IF THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE IS THE ULTIMATE GOOD OF INDUSTRY, THAT IS, THAT OUR INDUSTRIES WILL GET THE SKILLED MANPOWER THEY NEED TO SURVIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND COMPETITIVE SITUATION, THEN INDUSTRY CORPORATELY, EMPLOYERS INDIVIDUALLY AND YOU ESPECIALLY MUST CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE TO IT THAT THAT PURPOSE IS ACHIEVED.

+WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL OVERCOME ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS AND LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS CONFRONTING INDUSTRY, THAT OF SHORTAGE OF KEY SKILLED MANPOWER,+ SAID MR. KNIGHT.

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ON THE ORDINANCE ITSELF MR. KNIGHT SAID: +IT CAN BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE OUTCOME OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS OVER A PERIOD OF MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, FIRST BY THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY ITS SUCCESSOR, THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICESHIP.

+AS MAJOR EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AND THE EMPLOYERS FEDERATION OF HONG KONG ARE REPRESENTED ON THE ABOVE BODIES, IT MAY ALSO BE SAID THE ORDINANCE REFLECTS THE COMBINED ADVICE OF INDUSTRY TO THE GOVERNMENT ON APPRENTICESHIP LEGISLATION.

+MOREOVER, THE ORDINANCE IS ALSO THE OUTCOME OF SIX YEARS' RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE BY THE STAFF OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN DEVELOPING AN APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME THAT WAS MOST SUITED TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES AND IN GAINING THE VOLUNTARY ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCHEME BY EMPLOYERS.

+IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE TREMENDOUS ADVANCE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE BUILDING OF NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES,+ MR. KNIGHT SAID.

SUMMING UP, HE SAID THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO BOTH PROMOTE AND REGULATE THE TRAINING OF APPRENTICES IN THE VITAL TRADES.

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FRY OFF TO CANADA
TO ATTEND PAN-PACIFIC CONGRESS OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR. R.A. FRY, LEFT TODAY FOR VANCOUVER, CANADA TO ATTEND THE NINTH PAN-PACIFIC CONGRESS OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS, VALUERS AND COUNSELLORS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. FRY.

MR. FRY, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS, WILL PROCEED ON VACATION LEAVE AFTER ATTENDING THE CONGRESS.

DURING HIS ABSENCE, MR. C.M. STEWARD, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WILL ACT AS COMMISSIONER.

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REDUCED TRAIN FARES FOR STUDENTS DURING SUMMER VACATION
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HALF-FARE TRAIN TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE URBAN AREAS TO ORGANISE PICNICS AND OUTINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, MR. REG GREGORY, SAID THE REDUCED FARE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS IN RURAL DISTRICTS TO VISIT THE CITY MORE FREQUENTLY.

+THIS WILL ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE URBAN SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND TO ENJOY THE AMENITIES LACKING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

THE CONCESSION FARES, HE ADDED, WOULD BE INTRODUCED ON THE KCR BRITISH SECTION FOR TWO MONTHS FROM JULY 4 UP TO AND INCLUDING AUGUST 31, SUBJECT TO A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS.

ORDINARY HALF-FARE +CHILD+ TICKETS, OVERPRINTED WITH THE WORD +STUDENT+, WILL BE SOLD FOR TRAIN JOURNEYS FROM N.T. STATIONS TO MONG KOK OR THE HUNG HOM TERMINAL, AND VICE-VERSA.

ONLY RETURN TICKETS FOR ORDINARY CLASS, VALID FOR THE DATE ISSUE, WILL BE SOLD. THESE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON WEEKDAYS ONLY, AND NOT ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE IN RESPECT OF UNUSED RETURN PORTIONS OF THE TICKETS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

STUDENTS OVER-RIDING THE STATIONS FOR WHICH THEIR HALF-FARE TICKETS WERE SOLD WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY HALF-FARE PLUS 50 PER CENT FOR THAT PORTION OF THE JOURNEY FOR WHICH THEY DO NOT HOLD TICKETS.

STUDENTS FOUND TRAVELLING IN THE FIRST CLASS COACHES WITH ORDINARY CLASS HALF-FARE TICKETS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL FARE OF THE HIGHER CLASS PLUS 50 PER CENT LESS THE ORDINARY CLASS HALF-FARE.

PURCHASERS OF HALF-FARE STUDENT TICKETS MUST SHOW TO THE RAILWAY BOOKING CLERK AND, WHEN REQUESTED, TO THE TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE TRAINS, DOCUMENTS CERTIFYING THAT THEY ARE BONA FIDE STUDENTS EMPLOYED ON FULL TIME STUDY.

IF SUCH DOCUMENTS DO NOT BEAR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOLDERS, HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS MUST ALSO BE PRODUCED FOR INSPECTION.

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