



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, January 14, 1974

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Release time : 7.30 p.m.

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QUOTA CONTROLS ON POLYPROPYLENE

Export quota controls are to be introduced by the Commerce and Industry Department regulating the export and re-export of polypropylene - one of the basic raw materials used in the plastics industry.

A department spokesman said today that polypropylene was among the 55 items of plastic raw materials which were made subject to export licensing as a precautionary measure on January 1 this year.

"The object of licensing is to enable the department to monitor the export and re-export of plastic raw materials in view of the potential threat to our supplies caused by reduced oil production.

"In case of polypropylene, which is used extensively in the manufacture of household plastic products, the quantities licensed for export since January 1 are substantially in excess of the monthly average for 1973.

"We are introducing export quota controls for this item, therefore, in order to retain the traditional pattern of supplies for use in the local plastics industry."

The spokesman said that details of the quota system would be circulated to the trade in the next few days. In the meantime the issue of export licences for polypropylene has been suspended with effect from today.

Export quotas will be based on shipment returns for 1972 and 1973 already supplied by exporters to the Commerce and Industry Department.

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NEW ESTATE TO HOUSE 16,000 PEOPLE

Piling work for the first phase of the \$51-million public housing estate in Chai Wan, which will eventually house 16,000 people, is expected to start in April this year.

Site investigation is now in progress and tenders for the piling contract will be invited sometime in March, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said today.

The first phase of the project, which involves the construction of three seven-storey domestic blocks, is expected to be completed in 1975, providing homes for 5,700 people.

The second phase, which involves the construction of a 22-storey block and a commercial/marketing/parking complex, is expected to be completed about a year later and will provide accommodation for another 10,300 people.

The estate will have a total of 2,240 flats equipped with all the basic facilities essential for a self-contained community, a Housing Department spokesman said.

There will be a market complex with 476 market stalls, 20 cooked food stalls, a public library and 518 covered parking spaces.

Thirty-eight shops will be provided on the ground floor of two adjacent blocks, thus centralising shopping facilities.

Other facilities will include a post office, a welfare building, an administrative block, an inoculation centre, two schools and a two-storey restaurant.

There will also be 3.7 acres of recreational grounds.

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1973 WETTEST YEAR ON RECORD

Hong Kong experienced its wettest year on record last year when total rainfall reached 3100.4 mm - more than 40 per cent above average.

The year was also much warmer than usual with the second highest mean temperature on record.

Twenty-two tropical cyclones were reported over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea during the months July to November and this was the first occasion since 1917 when tropical cyclones were completely absent over the region during the first half of the year. Of the nine typhoons and tropical storms which affected Hong Kong during the year, only Typhoon 'Dot' came sufficiently close to cause gales and damage.

January was slightly warmer and more cloudy than usual with rainfall more than 80 per cent above average. Most of the month's rain fell during January 17-23 when a succession of upper air disturbances affected the south China coast. The Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted on three occasions as a result of the intensification of the winter monsoon. Dry northerly air also affected Hong Kong during the month and necessitated the issuance of the Fire Danger Warnings on seven days.

February was the mildest on record with only half the average amount of rainfall. Both the mean dew point and the mean minimum temperature were the highest on record for February. Relatively weak surges of the winter monsoon affected Hong Kong during the month and the Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted only once for nine hours on February 20. During February 21-23, widespread coastal fog and low visibility caused 17 aircraft to divert from Hong Kong Airport.

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The abnormally warm weather of February continued during March. The main temperature as well as the mean maximum and minimum temperatures for the month were all second highest on record for March, while the maximum temperature of 30.1 degrees celsius, recorded on the last day of the month, was the highest ever recorded in any March. The month was dry with a total rainfall of only 13.3 mm. The Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted twice as a result of the arrival of two monsoon surges. For the first half of the month, Hong Kong was under the influence of a warm and moist airstream from the South China Sea and the weather was mainly cloudy and humid with light rain patches and coastal fog. However, drier air from the north affected Hong Kong during the remainder of the month and Fire Danger Warnings were issued on two occasions during this period.

April was also warm and dry. The mean temperature of 24 degrees celsius was the highest on record for the month and was equalled only once before in April 1964. The Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted on three occasions, twice to warn of strong northeast winds and once to warn of strong southwesterlies. Thunderstorms were reported on several days and a hailstorm occurred over the northwestern part of the New Territories on April 7. Warm and humid air from the southeast caused mist and fog patches over Hong Kong for eight days and resulted in the diversion of 23 aircraft.

May was wetter and hotter than usual with rainfall more than 75 per cent above average. During the month there were only two days on which no rainfall was recorded at the Royal Observatory. Cold fronts from the north and troughs over the South China Sea brought heavy rain and widespread thunderstorms and Thunderstorm and/or Heavy Rain Warnings were issued on ten days.

/In June,

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In June, both the rainfall and air temperature were close to average. However, there was no tropical cyclone during the month and the rain was mostly associated with passages of active troughs from the north.

Six tropical cyclones formed over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in July. Of these only Typhoon 'Dot' and Tropical Storm 'Wilda' necessitated the hoisting of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals in Hong Kong.

The first tropical cyclone for the year was Tropical Storm 'Wilda' which passed about 200 miles east of Hong Kong on July 3. Typhoon 'Dot' formed in the South China Sea on July 14 and passed about 12 miles to the east of the Royal Observatory early on July 17. Gales and heavy showers were experienced during the passage of 'Dot' and some flooding was also reported in low-lying areas. This typhoon contributed about one-third of the month's total rainfall which was nearly 90 per cent above average.

During August, seven tropical cyclones formed over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea, but only three, Typhoon 'Georgia' and Tropical Storms 'Joan' and 'Kate' affected Hong Kong. They all passed within 180 miles to the south of Hong Kong and caused periods of strong winds and heavy rain. The rainfall for the month was more than double the average figure and was the second highest on record for August. The total rainfall from May to August and from January to August were both the highest ever recorded. On August 30, the Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted for four hours to warn of strong easterly winds.

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The abnormally wet weather of July and August continued during September. The rainfall recorded was more than 70 per cent above average while the accumulated total from January 1 up to the end of September exceeded the annual rainfall of the wettest year, 1889. During the month Typhoon 'Marge' and Severe Tropical Storm 'Louise' were the only two tropical cyclones reported in the western North Pacific and the South China Sea. Both formed in the vicinity of north Luzon and moved westwards across the South China Sea causing freshening of winds over Hong Kong. Two surges of the winter monsoon passed through Hong Kong and necessitated the hoisting of the Strong Monsoon Signal on September 24 and 27-28.

October was much drier than normal. Only 4.7 mm of rainfall were recorded during the month, representing less than five per cent of the average amount for October. On October 28, the relative humidity fell to a minimum of 21 per cent which was the lowest on record for October and was equalled once previously in October 1968.

Four typhoons were reported in the month but only Typhoons 'Nora' and 'Ruth' came sufficiently close to affect Hong Kong. The Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted on three occasions during outbreaks of cold air from the north.

No measurable rainfall was recorded during the first 24 days of November and the month's total rainfall amounted to only 9.3 mm against the average value of 43.1 mm. During the month, two tropical cyclones were reported over the South China Sea and one near the Philippines but none affected Hong Kong. Due to dry weather conditions, Fire Danger Warnings were in operation on 25 days of the month.

/An intense

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An intense and persistent continental anticyclone dominated China and the neighbouring seas during December and resulted in exceptionally dry and clear weather in Hong Kong. The month was the sunniest December since 1939 and the mean relative humidity and dew point for the month were both the lowest on record for December. On December 31, the relative humidity fell to a minimum of 14 per cent which was the lowest ever experienced for the month. No measurable rainfall was recorded during December and a Fire Danger Warning was in force every day throughout the month. The Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted on three occasions during the intensification of the northeast monsoon.

On December 25 and 26, the minimum temperature recorded at the Royal Observatory was 7.0 degrees celsius. This made December 25, 1973 the coldest Christmas Day on record and December 26, 1973 the coldest Boxing Day since 1926.

This year will be remembered for the exceptionally wet and cloudy summer and the unusually persistent clear and fine weather in November and December.

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NEW ESTATE SHOP RENTS ARE FAIR -- HOUSING DEPT

The Deputy Director of Housing, Mr. Frank Carroll, said today the rent adjustments for shops in North Point Estate were no greater than those for shops in other estates, and in some cases even less.

Commenting on recent moves taken by shop tenants in the estate in protest against the rent increases which come into effect on April 1, Mr. Carroll emphasised that the new rates were based on fair adjustments.

"Rents for shops in the estate have previously been substantially below the full market value and the shop tenants have enjoyed this advantage which their counterparts in the private sector did not have," Mr. Carroll said.

"The Housing Authority is required by the Housing Ordinance to make both ends meet and it is the intention of the Authority to let its shops in public housing estates at the commercial rent level to assist its general finances with particular reference to the provision of new housing estates," he added.

The shop tenants would also enjoy a rent freeze for at least three years until their tenancies are due for renewal again, Mr. Carroll said.

The new rents, ranging from about \$1.50 to \$2.50 per square foot, were considered by the Commissioner for Rating and Valuation as fair and reasonable.

As to the tenants' request for transfer of their tenancies to members of their families, Mr. Carroll said such applications would be considered and approval given to appropriate cases as the Authority had done in the past.

"They will also be permitted to change their trades in appropriate circumstances as they have previously," he added.

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WORKERS ENTITLED TO LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, today reminded employers that the first and second days of the Lunar New Year, which fall on January 23 and 24, are two of the six statutory holidays to which all non-manual employees earning not more than \$1,500 a month and all manual employees irrespective of the amount of their earnings are entitled under the Employing Ordinance.

"The ordinance does not make any distinction between industrial and non-industrial workers. Furthermore, the statutory holidays are in addition to the four rest days a month provided under the same ordinance," Mr. Price said.

An employee is qualified for pay on a statutory holiday if he has been employed continuously by his employer for three months or more immediately preceding the statutory holiday. An employee who is not so qualified is still entitled to the holiday and his employer may voluntarily agree to pay him.

"If the employer and employee agree, any day within 30 days of a statutory holiday may be taken by the employee as a substituted holiday," he said.

Any employer or employee who is in doubt about his rights or obligations regarding statutory holidays or holiday pay may consult officers of the nearest branch office of the Labour Relations Service. The telephone numbers are for Kowloon East, 3-205638; Kowloon West, 3-201652; Kwun Tong, 3-898520; Tsuen Wan, 12-422096; and Hong Kong Island, 5-282523 Ext. 60.

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SEMINAR ON SHEK KIP MEI RE-DEVELOPMENT

A seminar will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) to discuss the proposed re-development of the Shek Kip Mei and Tai Hang Tung areas.

It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre of the Social Welfare Department. The seminar is jointly organised by the West Kowloon Youth Guidance Council and Tai Hang Tung Community Centre.

"The purpose is to stimulate the concern of community leaders in the districts and to get their opinions and suggestions on the outline zoning plan," said Mr. Sit Sui-lum, Warden of the Community Centre.

Mr. Sit said it was hoped the seminar would also help to enhance communications between the government and the people in the district.

Some 70 members of the council who are principals of schools, or in charge of voluntary welfare agencies and church organisations, will be attending. It is also hoped to have representatives from various government departments concerned, including the Public Works Department.

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\$82 MILLION HOUSING CONTRACT

Note to Editors: A contract for the building of the first four blocks of the new public housing complex for the new town of Tuen Mun will be signed at 3 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) in the conference room of the P.W.D.'s Architectural Office, 12th floor, Murray Building.

The contract, valued at \$82.4 million, will be the largest in financial terms ever put out by the Architectural Office.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the signing.

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WATER CUTS IN NEW TERRITORIES

Water supply to a number of premises in Yuen Long and Fanling will be interrupted for eight hours on Wednesday and Thursday to facilitate water mains connections in Castle Peak Road and Shataukok Road.

The Temporary stoppage in Yuen Long will come into effect from 10 p.m. on Wednesday (January 16) and will affect all premises in Castle Peak along Castle Peak Road between the 16 and 20 milestones, as well as Tai Ham Chung Tsuen, Siu Lam Tsuen, Gordon Camp, Psychiatric Centre, Siu Lam Hospital, Dragon Inn, Ching Wah Lane and Tseng Tau Wai Tsuen.

Water supply to premises along Shataukok Road between Lung Yeuk Tau and Shataukok Market will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Thursday (January 17). Premises along Ping Che Road and Ta Kwu Ling will also be affected.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING

Motorists are advised that the section of Sheung Heung Road between Cheung Ning Street and To Kwa Wan Road will be re-routed to one-way eastbound traffic as from 10 a.m. on Thursday (January 17).

The new arrangement is intended to improve traffic flow at the junction of Sheung Heung Road and To Kwa Wan Road.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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WARNING AGAINST BUYING ILLEGAL HUTS

Housing Department staff today demolished about 80 illegal wooden huts in the Hong Ning Road and Wan Hon Street areas of Kwun Tong. Most of the huts were unoccupied.

A spokesman for the department said racketeers had been active in the areas, claiming to sell huts illegally built on Crown land.

The spokesman advised members of the public that it was unlawful to occupy Crown land without the proper authority, and the authorities concerned had the right to demolish the estates and property found illegally occupying such land.

He also warned the public to be on guard against racketeers selling wooden huts with promises of eligibility for public housing estates. Such claims, the spokesman stressed, were utterly false. Any person having any doubt about such offers should contact their nearest squatter control office.

"If members of the public fail to heed this warning, they will lose their money paid to racketeers trading in the sale of illegal huts," the spokesman warned.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Monday) 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 Mow - old crop	Good	1.72
- new crop		
S.C.Jion - old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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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	Good	4.5	3.4	4.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.8	0.6	2.0
Squid	Normal	6.2	3.2	5.5
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.5	1.2	2.2
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.4	1.0	2.8
Croakers	Normal	2.2	1.0	1.7
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.4	2.7	3.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.5	1.7	2.0
Breams	Limited	4.5	3.5	4.2
Yellow Belly	Good	1.5	0.8	1.3
Mackerels	Normal	4.0	3.3	3.8
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.1	0.6	1.7
Fork-Tail	Good	1.6	1.0	1.4
Horse-Head	Normal	6.5	3.5	5.2
Melon Seed	Normal	3.7	2.5	3.0
Pomfrets	Limited	10.0	9.0	9.5
Garcupas	Normal	7.0	5.5	6.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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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	Normal	1.8	0.8	1.4
White cabbage	Normal	1.0	0.4	0.7
Chinese Lottuce	Normal	0.8	0.5	0.6
Chinese Kale	Good	0.7	0.2	0.5
Spring onion	Normal	1.8	0.7	1.4
Spinach	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
Water cress	Normal	1.5	0.4	1.0
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.7	0.5	0.5
Tomato	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

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

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