



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY METHADONE MEASURE -- 92 PER CENT OF DRUG ADDICTS UNDER TREATMENT RETURN FOR DAILY DOSAGE	1
WEEKLY WATER SITUATION : TOTAL STORAGE REPRESENTING 81.9 PER CENT OF FULL CAPACITY	2
EMPLOYERS REMINDED OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR 1975	3
REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT CLOSES DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	3
FIRE SERVICES URGED PUBLIC TO PREVENT RURAL FIRES DURING HOLIDAYS	4
OVER 30,000 PEOPLE VISITED CAREERS EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT	5
TWO PRE-WAR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND DECLARED DANGEROUS	5

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974.

- 1 -

EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY METHADONE MEASURE
92 PER CENT RETURN DAILY FOR ORAL DOSAGE
* * * * *

IN THE FIRST WEEK OF EMERGENCY METHADONE MAINTENANCE AT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S THREE NEW CENTRES, 388 DRUG ADDICTS WERE TREATED, OF WHOM 334 OR 92.5 PER CENT ARE RETURNING FOR THEIR DAILY DOSAGE.

ANNOUNCING THESE FIGURES TODAY, DR. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, SAID THEY WERE +EXCELLENT AND MOST ENCOURAGING+.

OF THE 388 WHO WERE TREATED, 103 WERE ATTENDED TO AT THE HO MAN TIN HEALTH CENTRE IN PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, 138 AT THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN TSUEN WAN, AND 142 AT THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE IN SAN PO KONG.

ADDICTS TREATED WERE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 62, OR AN AVERAGE AGE OF 43. THEY WERE ADDICTED EITHER TO OPIUM OR HEROIN, WITH HEROIN ADDICTS NUMBERING 80 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

DR. CHOA SAID THAT DURING THE WEEK, ONLY THREE ADDICTS HAD BEEN REGARDED AS UNSUITABLE FOR METHADONE TREATMENT. ALL THREE WERE EXAMINED AT THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE. TWO WERE TOLD THAT METHADONE WOULD HARM, RATHER THAN RELIEVE THEM, BECAUSE OF ADVERSE CONDITIONS OF THE LIVER. THEY WERE REFERRED TO A MEDICAL CLINIC INSTEAD.

THE THIRD HAD ONLY BEEN ON HEROIN FOR SIX MONTHS, AND IT WAS CONSIDERED ADVISABLE, IN HIS OWN INTEREST, NOT TO PUT HIM ON METHADONE.

+THIS DISPOSES OF THE ALLEGATION THAT ADDICTS APPLYING FOR TREATMENT HAD BEEN TURNED AWAY,+ DR. CHOA COMMENTED. +OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF ADDICTS WHO WERE NOT ATTENDED TO ON THE FIRST OR SECOND DAY BECAUSE THEY HAD EITHER COME TOO LATE OR DID NOT HAVE PHOTOS AND IDENTITY CARDS, I BELIEVE ALL WERE EVENTUALLY TAKEN IN.+

IN HIS VIEW, THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST WEEK FOLLOWED PREDICTED LINES. THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE HAD BEEN THE DUSTIEST OF THE THREE, AS EXPECTED, BECAUSE IT WAS LOCATED NEAR THE NOTORIOUS KOWLOON CITY VICE DENS.

A NUMBER OF ADDICTS SEEKING TREATMENT AT THE HO MAN TIN HEALTH CENTRE, INSTEAD OF BEING DENIED ATTENTION, HAD MISSED THE CENTRE BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION BEHIND THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER. STAFF HAD HAD TO RUN AFTER THEM TO BRING THEM IN.

/DR. CHOA THOUGHT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974.

- 2 -

DR. CHOA THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE, IN VIEW OF THE FIRST WEEK'S RESULTS, THAT EVENTUALLY THE 1,000-A-DAY MAXIMUM CAPACITY -- THAT IS, ADDICTS RETURNING FOR THEIR DAILY DOSAGE -- AT EACH OF THE THREE CENTRES WOULD BE REACHED.

THE METHADONE MAINTENANCE PILOT STUDY IN HIGH STREET WOULD MOST PROBABLY ACHIEVE ITS TARGET OF 1,550 VOLUNTEER PATIENTS IN ANOTHER FEW WEEKS AND WOULD THEN END ITS PRESENT IN-PATIENT SYSTEM OF TREATMENT TO ADOPT THE OUT-PATIENT METHOD OF THE THREE EMERGENCY CENTRES.

+THIS MEANS, IN EFFECT, THAT A FOURTH EMERGENCY CENTRE WOULD THEN BE OPENED,+ DR. CHOA SAID.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPED, AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN +IF AND WHEN NECESSARY+.

THE THREE NEW CENTRES WILL OBSERVE THE COMING HOLIDAYS, AND WILL NOT BE OPENED ON DECEMBER 25, 26 AND JANUARY 1 FOR NEW CASES.

* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS: IN VIEW OF GENERAL INTEREST, FURTHER
----- PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE ISSUED AT
REGULAR INTERVALS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEEKLY WATER SITUATION REPORT

* * * * *

THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AT 9 A.M. TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 55,141 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 81.9 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS AND ALSO AN INCREASE OF 1,762 MILLION GALLONS OVER THE STORAGE AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 53,379 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 40,068 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 41,824 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 79.3 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY. THE TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 2,319.4 MM. (91.32 IN.).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2160.2 MM. (85.05 IN.), REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 7.4 PER CENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974.

- 3 -

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR 1975
* * * * *

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1975 IS ONE OF THE SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE SIX STATUTORY HOLIDAYS IN 1975 ARE : -

- (A) THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY (JANUARY 1)=
- (B) LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY (FEBRUARY 11)=
- (C) THE SECOND DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR (FEBRUARY 12)=
- (D) CHING MING FESTIVAL (APRIL 5)=
- (E) TUEN NG (DRAGON BOAT) FESTIVAL (JUNE 14)= AND
- (F) THE SECOND DAY FOLLOWING THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL (SEPTEMBER 22).

ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHO DO NOT EARN MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THESE HOLIDAYS.

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 HAS NOT WORKED FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STILL ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY, AND HIS EMPLOYER MAY AGREE VOLUNTARILY 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,+ MR. PRICE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT CLOSES
DURING HOLIDAYS
* * * * *

THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED FOR BUSINESS DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ANNOUNCING THIS, THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE CLOSED FROM 1 P.M. TOMORROW (DECEMBER 24) UNTIL 9 A.M. ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 27).

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974

- 4 -

PREVENT RURAL FIRES DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
URGED FIRE SERVICES
* * * * *

FAMILIES PLANNING TO VISIT THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ARE URGED TO TAKE CARE NOT TO START HILL OR FOREST FIRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RAIN FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW AND CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WERE EXCEPTIONALLY DRY.

+FIRES CAN BE STARTED VERY EASILY,+ HE SAID, +AND ALSO SPREAD MORE EASILY. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO HEED THE RED AND YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNINGS.+

HE SAID THAT THOUSANDS OF TREES WERE DESTROYED AND LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE SPOILED BY FIRE EVERY WINTER, MOSTLY THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF CARELESS HIKERS AND PICNICKERS.

+THROWING LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES ON THE GROUND IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF RURAL FIRES,+ HE STATED. +SMOKERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES ARE PROPERLY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE DISPOSING OF THEM.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED PARENTS TO KEEP MATCHES OUT OF THEIR CHILDREN'S REACH BECAUSE MANY FIRES HAD BEEN STARTED BY YOUNGSTERS PLAYING WITH MATCHES.

+ANOTHER MAJOR CAUSE OF COUNTRYSIDE FIRES IS CARELESSNESS WITH BARBECUE FIRES+, HE SAID. +FIRES ARE EITHER LEFT UNATTENDED OR NOT PUT OUT PROPERLY BEFORE PICNICKERS LEAVE THE AREA. ALSO, THEY ARE OFTEN LIT IN UNSUITABLE AREAS WHERE THE RISK OF FIRE SPREADING IS HIGH.+

HE ADVISED PEOPLE TO USE PROPERLY EQUIPPED SITES AND ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOMEONE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WATCHING THE FIRE WHEN IT WAS BURNING.

+THE FIRE MUST BE PUT OUT BY USING EARTH AND WATER BEFORE LEAVING THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974

- 5 -

VISITORS TO CAREERS '75 MAY TOP 70,000
* * * * *

MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE, MAINLY STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS, HAVE ALREADY VISITED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS EXHIBITION WHICH OPENED AT THE CITY HALL LAST FRIDAY.

INFORMATION ON MORE THAN 100 DIFFERENT JOBS IS AVAILABLE AT THE 15 STANDS AT THE EXHIBITION.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID TODAY HE WAS DELIGHTED BY THE RESPONSE TO CAREERS '75.

+IT POINTS TO THE REAL AND URGENT NEED FOR CAREERS ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ATTENDANCE MAY EVEN TOP THE 70,000 WE HAD EXPECTED.

+I AM GLAD THAT SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION.+

THE EXHIBITION WILL REMAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 7 P.M. UNTIL DECEMBER 29.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO PRE-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS
* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NOS. 13 AND 15 TUNG LOI LANE, HONG KONG TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION, AND NOS. 11, 17, 19 AND 21 TUNG LOI LANE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THIS GROUP OF THREE-STOREY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SOME TIME IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL DETERIORATED CONDITION OF THEIR TIMBERWORK AND LOAD BEARING BRICKWORK AND OF THE SIGNIFICANT FRACTURES IN THEIR COMMON PARTY WALLS.

HE SAID: +THIS IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS IN NO. 13 TUNG LOI LANE WHERE THE PARTY WALL WITH NO. 15 TUNG LOI LANE IS SEVERELY FRACTURED, AND IN NO. 15 TUNG LOI LANE WHERE MANY OF THE MAIN ROOF TIMBERS HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE COLLAPSE IS IMMINENT.+

AS ANY DEMOLITION OF NOS. 13 AND 15 TUNG LOI LANE WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS, HE ADDED, CONSIDERATION OF THE GROUP AS A WHOLE HAD BEEN UNAVOIDABLE.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON JANUARY 21, 1975 WERE POSTED TODAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

* * * * *

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

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	1.82
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.67
PO NGAI	GOOD	--
CHU CHO	GOOD	--
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.66
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.50
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	--
A1 SUPER	GOOD	--
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.56
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.75
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.70
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	--
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	330 (AVERAGE)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974

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	NORMAL	1.80	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	1.40	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	---	---	---	---
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.70	1.40
STRING BEANS	---	---	---	---
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	2.20	0.50	1.40
SPINACH	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.20
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	1.60	0.40	1.00
CHINESE SPINACH	---	---	---	---
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	LIMITED	2.50	1.50	2.00

----- 0 -----