



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974.

CONTENTS -----	PAGE NO. -----
COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PAPER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPANSION TO BE TABLED IN LEGCO NEXT MONTH	1
BEACHES WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED	2
NEW EXPLANATORY BOOKLET ON TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS YEAR	3
RECENT DROWNING INCIDENT IN VICTORIA PARK SWIMMING POOL RECOUNTED IN LEGCO	4
LEGISLATION ON HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED IF NECESSARY	4
SHAMSHUIPO FISHING LAANS TO BE RESITED TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW BUILDING COMPLEX	5
FURTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT RURAL ENVIRONMENT	5
FUNDS FOR N.T. PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS EXPLAINED	6
NEW UNIT TO POLICE LEASES ON THE WAY	6
THERE IS TO BE NO CHANGE IN THE MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE FOR RICE	7
MORE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WILL BE RECRUITED LOCALLY IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS	7
LACK OF FUNDS DELAYS HUNG HOM INDOOR STADIUM	8
NEW S.W.D. FIELD UNIT TO LOOK AFTER WELFARE NEEDS OF N.T. RESIDENTS	8
RECOMMENDATION ON FUEL FOR DESALTER EXPECTED SHORTLY ...	9
TWO BILLS COMPLETE PASSAGE THROUGH LEGCO	9

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974

- 1 -

COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PAPER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. JOHN CANNING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DURING JUNE A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PAPER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPANSION FOR THE NEXT DECADE.

THIS PAPER WOULD ENABLE THE BOARD TO RE-ASSESS THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSALS IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE EDUCATION GREEN PAPER AND DECIDE WHAT FURTHER ADVICE MEMBERS SHOULD NOW TENDER TO THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CANNING, WHO WAS REPLYING TO MR. WILSON WANG, GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE PREPARATION OF HIS DEPARTMENTAL SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD +IS GOING AHEAD WITH ALL POSSIBLE DESPATCH+.

POINTING OUT THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE COMPLEX, THE DIRECTOR SAID: +WE ARE DEALING WITH MATTERS WHICH WILL CLOSELY CONCERN THE FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROSPECTS OF OUR CHILDREN, AND IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO RUSH THE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH FUNDAMENTAL MATTERS.+

WHILE SECONDARY POLICY IS EVOLVING THROUGH THE PROCESS OF FURTHER COMMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, MR. CANNING SAID: +I SHOULD ADD THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976 TARGETS IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.+

IN REPLY TO MR. WANG ON +WHEN WILL THE WHITE PAPER BE READY FOR DEBATE IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL?+ MR. CANNING SAID:

+THE INTENTION IS THAT AS SOON AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS CONSIDERED THE POLICY PAPER TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED, AND HAS MADE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY, PREPARATION OF THE WHITE PAPER SETTING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED POLICY WILL NOT BE LONG DELAYED.+

THE DIRECTOR ASSURED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION THAT A DRAFT WHITE PAPER SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE READY FOR DEBATE BEFORE THE END OF THIS SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROVIDED THAT NO UNFORESEEN MAJOR PROBLEMS EMERGED DURING THE BOARD'S RECONSIDERATION OF THE GREEN PAPER AND ITS AFTERMATH.

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IMPROVEMENT FOR BEACHES OUTLINED

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MUCH HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE BEACHES, PARTICULARLY THE ONE AT REPULSE BAY, TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR BEACH GOERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID ALEXANDER, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO THE HON. WILFRED WONG WHO ASKED WHAT MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AT THE BEACHES.

MR. ALEXANDER NOTED THAT THE SITUATION REMAINED MUCH AS HE LAST STATED THE POSITION TO BE WHEN HE ANSWERED A SIMILAR QUESTION IN 1972.

+THIS IS SOMETHING A LITTLE BEYOND THE CONTROL OR CAPABILITIES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS IT IS RELATED IN LARGE PART TO +FUNG SHUI+, THAT IS, WIND AND WATER OR, IN OTHER WORDS, TYPHOONS AND TIDES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE AT PRESENT 37 GAZETTED BEACHES -- 12 IN THE URBAN AREA UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL AND 25 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES UNDER THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. LOCATED AS THEY ARE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HONG KONG, THE PHYSICAL AND GEOLOGICAL CONDITION VARIES CONSIDERABLY.

+SOME HAVE A SANDY BOTTOM AND ARE RELATIVELY FREE FROM ROCKS, WHILE OTHERS ARE MORE STONY AND, IN ADDITION, MAY HAVE HILL-STREAMS OR NULLAHS ENTERING THE SEA AT OR NEAR THEM,+ MR. ALEXANDER EXPLAINED.

EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT OF SAND AND ROCKS AT BEACHES. TYPHOONS FREQUENTLY DROVE MORE ROCKS ON TO THEM AND THE ACCOMPANYING HEAVY RAINFALL BROUGHT STORMWATER ON TO THE BEACHES AND FORESHORES, STRIPPING THEM OF SAND. THE SAME CONDITIONS APPLIED TO A LESSER EXTENT DURING SEASONAL STRONG WINDS AND PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN.

HE SAID U.S.D. BEACH STAFF WERE REQUIRED AS PART OF THEIR DUTIES TO CLEAR AWAY STONES, LOOSE ROCKS AND DEBRIS.

DURING WINTER MONTHS, IT WAS THE USUAL PRACTICE FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT MINOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTING NEW TERRACES FROM ROCKS TAKEN FROM THE BEACHES AND PROVIDING SAFE ACCESS ROUTES, FREE FROM ROCKS, INTO THE WATER.

THE DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT HIS STAFF WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT COULD TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR BEACH-GOERS.

REFERRING TO REPULSE BAY, HE POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE SEA BED THERE WAS COVERED WITH LARGE ROCKS, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WERE BELOW THE LOW WATER MARK.

/+AS FOR

+AS FOR SMALLER ROCKS AND STONES ABOVE THE LOW WATER MARK, THE INFORMED ADVICE WE HAVE RECEIVED IS THAT THEIR REMOVAL MIGHT LEAD TO AN UNACCEPTABLE DEGREE OF SAND EROSION WHILE, IN ANY CASE, PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT FRESH ITEMS ARE VERY QUICKLY WASHED UP IN PLACE OF THOSE LABORIOUSLY REMOVED.+

HE SAID THE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT AT THE LIDO END OF REPULSE BAY BEACH WOULD BE EXPECTED TO GREATLY IMPROVE THE GENERAL FACILITIES FOR BEACH-GOERS, WHILE, IN DUE COURSE, THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD HOPE TO TAKE IN HAND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SEAVIEW END OF THE BEACH.

MR. ALEXANDER ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT HIS STAFF WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ALL THEY COULD TO ENSURE THAT ANY INCONVENIENCE TO SWIMMERS FROM STONES OR ROCKS WOULD BE REDUCED TO THE MINIMUM -- INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF ACCESS ROUTES TO THE SEA AND THE REMOVAL OF SMALL ROCKS AND STONE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE AREAS ABOVE THE HIGH WATER MARK COVERED WITH LOOSE STONES AND PEBBLES AND PROTRUDING ROCKS.

HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MORE PRACTICAL PROPOSITION THAN +SANDING+, WHICH, IN ANY CASE, WAS UNLIKELY TO PREVENT AN ACCUMULATION OF ROCKS.

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NEW EXPLANATORY BOOKLET ON TRAFFIC SIGNS SOON
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A NEW HIGHWAY CODE WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR TO HELP MOTORISTS BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE VARIOUS ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS.

THE NEW CODE WILL INCLUDE DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL AUTHORISED TRAFFIC SIGNS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL DRIVERS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, SAID TODAY.

IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ARRANGE APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY BEFORE ANY NEW TYPES OF TRAFFIC SIGNS WERE INTRODUCED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, MR. LI DISCLOSED THAT NEW CHINESE VERSIONS FOR 13 OF THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS PUBLISHED LAST MONTH IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE WERE BEING PRODUCED TO MAKE THEM EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE, HE SAID, THAT SOME OF THE NEW SIGNS MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

+IN THESE DISCUSSIONS EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO FIND THE MOST APPROPRIATE TERMS TO REFLECT THE INTENTION OF THE SIGN, AS WELL AS TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974

- 4 -

VICTORIA POOL DROWNING

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THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR. DAVID ALEXANDER, TODAY SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE SO FAR TO ASCERTAIN THE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DROWNING OF A BOY IN VICTORIA PARK SWIMMING POOL ON MAY 12 THIS YEAR.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN, MR. ALEXANDER RECALLED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, 2.45 P.M., THE POOL WAS VERY CROWDED.

THE SECOND SHIFT OF LIFEGUARDS HAD ALREADY COME ON DUTY AND OF THESE, FOUR (FULL COMPLEMENT) WERE ON DUTY AT THE MAIN POOL, WITH TWO ADDITIONAL LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY BETWEEN THE MAIN POOL AND THE NEARBY CHILDREN'S POOL.

THE VICTIM, A NON-SWIMMER, WAS SEEN LYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MAIN POOL, IN WATER ABOUT TWO METERS DEEP, BY THE LIFEGUARD NEAREST TO HIM. THE LIFEGUARD IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO THE WATER AND BROUGHT THE BOY OUT. HOWEVER, THE VICTIM WAS UNCONSCIOUS AND BREATHING WITH DIFFICULTY.

MR. ALEXANDER SAID THAT BEFORE THE VICTIM WAS SPOTTED, NO CRIES FOR HELP WERE HEARD, NOR WERE THERE SIGNS THAT ANY PERSON WAS IN DIFFICULTIES. THE BOY WAS TAKEN AT ONCE TO THE POOL'S FIRST AID POST WHERE MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESPIRATION WAS APPLIED FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

+DURING THIS PERIOD, NO WATER CAME UP -- ONLY SOME FOOD,+ MR. ALEXANDER SAID.

THE DIRECTOR ADDED THAT AN AMBULANCE, CALLED AT 2.55 P.M., ARRIVED WITHIN FIVE MINUTES AND LEFT TWO MINUTES LATER FOR TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL. OXYGEN WAS APPLIED ON THE WAY, BUT THE BOY WAS CERTIFIED DEAD AFTER ARRIVAL.

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NO APPARENT NEED FOR HIRE-PURCHASE LEGISLATION
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION ON HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS IF IT IS SHOWN THAT THIS IS NEEDED, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN, MR. JORDAN NOTED THAT MR. WOO HAD ASKED A SIMILAR QUESTION IN AUGUST 1970. AT THAT TIME THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REPLIED AT LENGTH SAYING THAT AS NO EVIDENCE HAD COME TO LIGHT TO SHOW THAT THERE WERE IN THIS BUSINESS MALPRACTICES AND OPPRESSIVE AGREEMENTS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC NEEDED PROTECTION, THERE WAS NO PLAN TO DRAFT LEGISLATION THEN.

+IN THE FOUR YEARS SINCE THEN,+ MR. JORDAN SAID, +NO ONE HAS REPRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE POSITION HAS CHANGED AND I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF OPINION THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR LEGISLATION.+

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REPROVISIONING OF LAANS FOR GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

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THE LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR A SITE FOR THE TEMPORARY REPROVISIONING OF THE +FISH LAANS+ IN SHAM SHUI PO TO MAKE WAY FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT PROBLEMS OF CLEARING THE SITE STILL REMAINED TO BE SOLVED BEFORE THE WORK COULD PROCEED.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO THE HON. H.M.G. FORSGATE, WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE DELAY OF THE PROJECT, MR. ROBSON SAID THESE LAANS, OR THE WHOLESALE FRESH WATER FISH MARKET, WERE PRESENTLY OCCUPYING THE SITE OF THE NEW BUILDING.

BUT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RESITED IN THE NEW CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE MARKET WHEN IT IS COMPLETED BY ABOUT 1978 AND, IN THE MEANTIME, A TEMPORARY SITE IS BEING FOUND FOR THEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDINGS WOULD PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE BENEFITS OF CONVENIENCE AND ECONOMY, THEIR PLANNING WAS MOST COMPLICATED, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ON RECONCILING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DIFFERENT USERS.

IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, HE EXPLAINED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN THWARTED ALSO BY CONSTANT CHANGES IN USER REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PLANNING TO PROCEED BEYOND THE DRAWING BOARD STAGE.

+THE SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION IS STILL NOT FINALISED, AND DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES PREPARED FOR THE BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE ARE TENTATIVE.

+CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO PHASING CONSTRUCTION SO THAT THE MARKET COULD BE BUILT IN ADVANCE OF THE REMAINDER OF THE BUILDING IF NECESSARY. THE PROJECT DOES NOT INCLUDE A CAR PARK,+ MR. ROBSON SAID.

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MEASURES TO PROTECT RURAL ENVIRONMENT

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A CONTRACT HAS RECENTLY BEEN LET BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH MATTERS SUCH AS ILLEGAL DUMPING, THE FENCING OFF OF LARGE VACANT SITES PENDING DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. IAN MACPHERSON, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG.

MR. MACPHERSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESENT FOR TIDYING UP AND FENCING OFF THE MANY TRACTS OF CROWN LAND IN THE RURAL AREAS WHICH, MR. CHEUNG SAID, WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ENCROACHMENT AND OF WHICH MANY WERE IN A DISGRACEFUL STATE.

HOWEVER, MR. MACPHERSON POINTED OUT THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF THE FUNDS ALREADY VOTED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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FUNDS FOR N.T. PUBLIC WORKS EXPLAINED

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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TODAY CLARIFIED A DECISION OF HAVING LESS FUNDS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROVISION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON CLEANSING FACILITIES, WHICH WAS FORMERLY INCLUDED IN THE AMBIT OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE, HAD NOW BEEN INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE SUBHEAD.

+SINCE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS DON'T CEASE TO BE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS JUST BECAUSE WE PUT THE FINANCIAL PROVISION UNDER A DIFFERENT SUBHEAD, I WOULD SUGGEST TO MY HONOURABLE FRIEND THAT THE TRUE COMPARISON IS BETWEEN THE \$5.5 MILLION PROVIDED IN 1973-74 AND THE TOTAL OF \$7.8 MILLION PROVIDED IN 1974-75.

+THIS IS MADE UP OF \$4.8 MILLION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS AND \$3 MILLION FOR CLEANSING FACILITIES.+

MR. JORDAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE COMMITMENT OF \$25 MILLION FOR CLEANSING FACILITIES, THEY VOTED \$5 MILLION WITHIN THAT COMMITMENT AS SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR 1973-74.

AT THAT TIME, HE SAID THE BUDGETARY SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DID NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE PROVISION OF \$5.5 MILLION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, ALTHOUGH PROVISION FOR CLEANSING FACILITIES CEASED TO BE CHARGED TO IT.

+SO THE TOTAL VOTED DURING 1973-74 FOR CLEANSING FACILITIES AND LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS WAS \$10.5 MILLION. BUT WE SHOULD TREAT THIS AS A ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL BONUS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS.

+IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DO NOT THINK THE PROVISION FOR LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS NEEDS TO BE RECONSIDERED, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS STAGE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR.+

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NEW UNIT TO POLICE LEASE CONDITIONS

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STAFF RECRUITMENT FOR THE NEW LEASE ENFORCEMENT UNIT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IS WELL UNDER WAY, AND ACCOMMODATION HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR IT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE UNIT WILL BECOME FUNCTIONAL IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE ON THE SCOPE OF THE WORK THAT IT WILL BE UNDERTAKING AS SOON AS THE STAFF ARE IN POST, HE SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. KENNETH LO.

MR. ROBSON RECALLED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIT WAS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER LAST, AND THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RESERVED IN THE WEST WING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974.

- 7 -

NO CHANGE IN MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE FOR RICE

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THE MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE OF RICE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT \$2.50 PER CATTY DURING JUNE, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THIS HAD BEEN AGREED BY THE RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AFTER A DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF RICE PRICING ARRANGEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TRADE.

IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS HAVE AGREED TO A SMALLER MARK-UP THAN THE DC AND I FORMULA WOULD HAVE ALLOWED, HE SAID, IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING THE PRESENT PRICE STRUCTURE FOR CONSUMERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS REPORTEDLY MADE BY AN URBAN COUNCILLOR THAT SIX IMPORTERS ARE SELLING THEIR QUOTA RIGHTS AND ARE NOT ACTUALLY PARTICIPATING IN THE RICE TRADE.

+WE ARE INVITING THE COUNCILLOR CONCERNED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH US IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION FOR THESE ALLEGATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

+THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO EVIDENCE AT THE MOMENT TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY BREACH OF THE REGULATIONS BY IMPORTERS WITHIN THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME.+

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EMPHASIS ON LOCAL RECRUITMENT

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MORE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WILL BE RECRUITED LOCALLY THAN OVERSEAS, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, DISCLOSED TODAY.

+THE PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS TO LOCAL RECRUITS IS REGULARLY REVIEWED AND THE TARGET FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS IS VERY ROUGHLY FIVE LOCAL TO ABOUT THREE OVERSEAS ENTRANTS,+ HE SAID.

*REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU, MR. CLINTON EXPLAINED THAT THE POLICY WAS TO RECRUIT SOME OVERSEAS AND SOME LOCAL CANDIDATES EACH YEAR.

THE MAIN QUALIFICATION FOR APPLICANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE IS A GOOD HONOURS DEGREE. HOWEVER, DEGREES FROM NON-COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES ARE ACCEPTED IF THEY ARE OF EQUIVALENT STANDARD AND WE ALREADY HAVE SOME SUCH OFFICERS.

MR. CLINTON SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL METHOD OF RECRUITMENT WAS BY OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION USUALLY HELD ANNUALLY. FOR SERVING OFFICERS, THE DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS MAY BE WAIVED, HE ADDED.

+THE UPPER AGE LIMIT FOR SUCH ENTRANTS HAS NORMALLY BEEN 35 YEARS, BUT IN THE MOST RECENT RECRUITMENT EXERCISE EARLIER THIS YEAR IT WAS RAISED TO 45 YEARS AS AN EXPERIMENT. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, APPLICATIONS WERE ALSO INVITED FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE RANK OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.+ MR. CLINTON SAID.

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HUNG HOM INDOOR STADIUM DELAYED

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THE INDOOR STADIUM PROJECT IN HUNG HOM WILL BE DELAYED, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. SZETO WAI, MR. MCDONALD EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND THE VERY LARGE EXISTING COMMITMENT ON PROJECTS, +FUNDS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO ALLOW ADHERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL TIME SCHEDULE+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AN EXERCISE WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE RE-PHASING OF ITEMS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+IT MAY BE THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT WILL NOT BE ACCORDED A VERY HIGH PRIORITY WHEN CONSIDERED AGAINST THE NEEDS IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH AND OTHER HIGH PRIORITY FIELDS,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

MEANWHILE, WORKING DRAWINGS FOR THE INDOOR STADIUM WERE IN PREPARATION.

BY THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMME, WORKS ON THE SITE OF THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE COMMENCED NEXT FEBRUARY AND BEEN COMPLETED BY DECEMBER, 1976.

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NEW S.W.D. UNIT FOR N.T. RESIDENTS

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A NEW SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT SHEUNG SHUI IN JULY TO ADMINISTER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEMES.

THE NEW OFFICE WILL DEAL WITH RESIDENTS IN FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI, TA KWU LING, SHA TAU KOK AND THEIR SURROUNDING AREAS, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, SAID TODAY.

+SHEUNG SHUI WAS SELECTED AS THE LOCATION FOR THIS NEW OFFICE BECAUSE, UNLIKE FANLING, ACCOMMODATION WAS READILY AVAILABLE THERE AT A REASONABLE RENT AND BECAUSE THE SHORT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNS CAUSES LITTLE OR NO INCONVENIENCE AS TO ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILLIAMS TOLD COUNCIL, IN REPLY TO A QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO, THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS A PROBATION OFFICE AND A YOUTH CENTRE AND HOSTEL IN FANLING, BUT THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO OPEN A BRANCH S.W.D. OFFICE.

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RECOMMENDATION ON FUEL FOR DESALTER SOON

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A RECOMMENDATION ON THE SUPPLY OF FUEL OIL FOR THE DESALTING PLANT IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE TO THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD SHORTLY, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO DOCTOR THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, MR. JORDAN SAID THE ANTICIPATED RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME OVER THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR THE DESALTER FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

ON THE WHOLE INTER-RELATED ISSUE OF OIL, DESALINATION AND WATER SUPPLY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS RECONSIDERING NOT JUST THE ECONOMICS OF THE DESALTING PLANT BUT THE ECONOMICS OF ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIES GENERALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRICE AND SUPPLY SITUATION WITH REGARD TO FUEL OIL.

+FOR INSTANCE, WHEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF GATHERING MORE WATER FROM NATURAL SOURCES WE HAVE IN RECENT YEARS NOT PURSUED ANY SCHEME WHERE THE COST OF WATER WOULD BE GREATER THAN THE COST OF DESALTED WATER.

+CLEARLY WE MUST NOW -- INDEED WE HAVE STARTED TO -- RECONSIDER SUCH SCHEMES UP TO A HIGHER CUT-OFF POINT SINCE OUR EARLIER ASSUMPTIONS ON THE FUTURE COST OF DESALTED WATER MUST BE REVISED.

+BUT I SHOULD ADD THAT THE ADDITIONAL YIELD FROM SUCH SCHEMES IS UNLIKELY TO DO MORE THAN MEET THE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR.+

IN THE LONG TERM, MR. JORDAN SAID THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS, OF WHICH THE DESALTER IS ONLY A PART, WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

+WE MUST CLEARLY RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF USING OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHANGED SITUATION WITH REGARD TO OIL SUPPLIES AND PRICES.+

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BILLS PASSED

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TWO BILLS -- THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE NURSES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL -- PASSED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANOTHER BILL, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, WAS INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL AND DEBATE ON ITS SECOND READING WAS ADJOURNED.

THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS FOR THE YEAR 1972/73 WAS TABLED IN COUNCIL.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) 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 PRICES (\$/CATTY) MODE
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	---	---
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	---	---
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	---	---
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	---	---
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	2.01
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.87
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.67
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.98
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.91
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	---	---
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	305 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	NORMAL	3.80	2.50	3.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	0.80	2.00
SQUID	LIMITED	6.50	2.00	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	2.50	1.00	2.00
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.20	1.40	2.20
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.60	1.00	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.60	1.00	1.20
MELON COAT	--	--	--	--
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.20	3.00	4.70
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.60	0.60	1.00
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.50	3.20	3.80
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.70	0.50	0.60
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.10	0.70	0.80
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	5.00	3.20	4.20
MELON SEED	NORMAL	1.70	0.80	1.00
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.00	7.50	7.80
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	6.50	5.00	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	--	--	--	--

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	GOOD	0.70	0.20	0.50
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	0.80	0.30	0.50
STRING BEANS	NORMAL	1.60	0.50	1.20
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.40	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	0.80	0.20	0.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.60	0.15	0.40
CHINESE SPINACH	GOOD	0.45	0.10	0.30
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.60