



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974.

CONTENTS -----	PAGE NO. -----
30 PER CENT INCREASE IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE RATES FROM JUNE 1	1
MIRROR-TYPE WINDSCREENS ON CARS BANNED	2
NEW REGULATIONS TO CONTROL VEHICLE POLLUTION PUBLISHED	3
NEW RULES FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS CARRYING DANGEROUS GOODS	5
300 ELDERLY PEOPLE TO BE FETED IN TSZ WAN SHAN TOMORROW	6
CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN AND SITE AGENTS URGED TO SET GOOD EXAMPLE IN SAFE WORKING PRACTICES	7

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974.

- 1 -

30 PER CENT INCREASE IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
TO MEET RISING COSTS

PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, DISABILITY ALLOWANCES AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ARE TO BE GIVEN A 30 PER CENT INCREASE BEGINNING ON JUNE 1 TO HELP THEM COPE WITH PRICE INCREASES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, MR. FREDERICK CLARK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GENERAL) OF SOCIAL WELFARE, SAID THE INCREASES WERE APPROVED ON WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SCALE RATES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES, GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS DIA ALLOWANCES, HAVE BEEN KEPT UNDER CLOSE REVIEW AND IN LINE WITH RECENT PRACTICE THE RATES WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREASED IN JULY, THAT IS SIX MONTHS AFTER THE JANUARY 1974 INCREASE.

+HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE TREND IN RISING COSTS IT WAS DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT THE REVIEW AHEAD OF TIME AND THUS THE NEW LEVELS OF BENEFIT WILL COME INTO FORCE FROM JUNE 1. THIS MEANS THAT THOSE RECEIVING THE ALLOWANCES WILL IN EFFECT GET SOME EXTRA CASH IN HAND.+

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HE EXPLAINED, ALWAYS KEEPS A CLOSE WATCH ON THE LEVELS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DIA BY REFERENCE EACH MONTH TO THE MOVEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INDEX. THIS INDEX, WHICH IS RELATED TO THE GENERAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MEASURES THE COST OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE, PREDOMINANTLY FOOD, INCURRED BY THE POOREST MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. (RENT IS EXCLUDED BECAUSE IT IS MET SEPARATELY).

THE LEVELS OF BENEFIT HAVE IN FACT ALREADY BEEN INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN JULY 1973, AND 21 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1974 FOLLOWING APRIL 1972 WHEN THE INITIAL RATES WERE FIXED.

+BY ADVANCING THE OPERATING DATE BY ONE MONTH THE INCREASES BEING IMPLEMENTED NEXT MONTH WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF GIVING RECIPIENTS A FIVE PER CENT LEAD OVER THE PROJECTED PRICES FOR JUNE AND IN SO DOING, WILL PROVIDE SOME EXTRA CASH IN HAND TO THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO HELP THEM MEET ESSENTIAL EXPENSES PENDING ANY FURTHER REVIEW,+ MR. CLARK SAID.

THE NEW RATES WILL BE: (PRESENT RATES IN BRACKETS)

SINGLE PERSON LIVING ALONE	\$180 (\$145) PER MONTH
FIRST THREE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY	\$130 (\$105) EACH PER MONTH
SECOND THREE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY	\$105 (\$85) EACH PER MONTH
EACH ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER TOGETHER	\$80 (\$65) EACH PER MONTH
DISABILITY ALLOWANCE	\$180 (\$145)
INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE	\$90 (\$72.50)

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- 2 -

AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME CAN HELP A FAMILY IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS, MR. CLARK SAID THAT THE SCALE RATE FOR A FIVE-MEMBER FAMILY WOULD BE , AT THE NEW LEVELS, \$600 A MONTH ON TOP OF WHICH WOULD BE ADDED RENT ALLOWANCES AND THE COST OF ANY SCHOOL FEES, TRAVELLING EXPENSES. MOREOVER, ANY SPECIAL EXPENSES, SUCH AS DIETARY NEEDS WOULD ALSO BE COVERED. IF ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY WAS OVER 75 OR WAS SEVERELY MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED, ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES UNDER THE DIA SCHEME WOULD BE ADDED.

AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR, THERE WAS A CASELOAD OF 27,407 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES AND 42,450 DIA CASES.

THE INCREASE IS EXPECTED TO COST AN ADDITIONAL \$29.6 MILLION.

WITH THE NEW INCREASE, THE TOTAL BILL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DIA SCHEMES FOR 1974-75 WILL AMOUNT TO \$144.6 MILLION.

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**BAN ON MIRROR-TYPE WINDSCREENS

THE USE OF ONE-WAY MIRROR-TYPE WINDSCREENS AND WINDOWS ON MOTOR VEHICLES HAS BEEN BANNED IN HONG KONG UNDER AMENDING REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE USE OF THIS REFLECTIVE MATERIAL HAS A DAZZLING EFFECT THAT MAY CAUSE ACCIDENTS IF THE SUN IS REFLECTED INTO THE EYES OF ANOTHER DRIVER.

MOREOVER, SUCH WINDSCREENS AND WINDOWS MAKE THE OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLES INVISIBLE FROM THE OUTSIDE AND COULD PROVIDE A MOBILE HIDEOUT FOR CRIMINALS, HE ADDED.

THE BAN DOES NOT APPLY TO TINTED GLASS WHICH IS INSTALLED BY SOME MANUFACTURERS TO PREVENT GLARE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AS LONG AGO AS OCTOBER 1972, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT ISSUED A STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THAT HE INTENDED TO SEEK CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION BANNING THE USE OF THIS REFLECTIVE MATERIAL. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP BY ANOTHER STATEMENT LAST DECEMBER WARNING THAT REFLECTIVE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE BAN WOULD SOON BE INTRODUCED.

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974.

CONTROLS ON VEHICLE POLLUTION INTRODUCED

THE FIRST POSITIVE MOVES TO CONTROL POLLUTION CAUSED BY MOTOR VEHICLES WERE TAKEN TODAY WITH THE GAZETTING OF AMENDED REGULATIONS WHICH LAY DOWN CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR VEHICLES IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE.

THE REGULATIONS -- KNOWN AS THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND USE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974 -- MAKE IT COMPULSORY FOR PETROL-ENGINED VEHICLES TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 15 MADE BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE). THEY WILL NOT APPLY TO MOTOR CYCLES OR VEHICLES WHICH ARE NOT CAPABLE OF EXCEEDING 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR ON LEVEL GROUND.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT ECE 15 SETS OUT IN DETAIL THE MANUFACTURING STANDARDS AND TESTS REQUIRED OF THESE VEHICLES TO MINIMISE THE POSSIBILITY OF EMITTING EXHAUST SMOKE.

INITIALLY THE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY ONLY TO NEW PETROL-ENGINED VEHICLES IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG AND MANUFACTURED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1974.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY TO PERMIT LOCAL VEHICLE IMPORTERS TO CLEAR THEIR PRESENT STOCKS AND TO ARRANGE FOR FUTURE DELIVERIES OF ACCEPTABLE MODELS.

+ALMOST ALL VEHICLES MANUFACTURED BY EUROPEAN FIRMS ALREADY COMPLY WITH THE ECE 15 REQUIREMENT AND THERE ARE EQUIVALENT STANDARDS FOR VEHICLES MANUFACTURED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF THE NEW REGULATION, IS FULLY SUPPORTING ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

VEHICLES WHICH COMPLY WITH THE REGULATION ARE AUTOMATICALLY EQUIPPED WITH EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROLS WHICH ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT EMIT MORE THAN 4.5 PER CENT BY VOLUME OF CARBON MONOXIDE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIRST PUTTING CONTROLS ON PETROL-ENGINED VEHICLES BECAUSE THE EXHAUST SMOKE, ALTHOUGH LESS VISIBLE THAN THAT FROM DIESEL VEHICLES, CONTAINED TOXIC CARBON MONOXIDE GAS.

HE SAID THERE WERE PLANS TO FOLLOW THIS UP WITH SIMILAR CONTROLS ON NEW DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES LATER THIS YEAR. LEGISLATION WAS ALSO IN THE PIPELINE TO EXERCISE MORE CONTROL OVER THE AMOUNT OF EXHAUST SMOKE EMITTING FROM VEHICLES ALREADY ON THE ROADS.

/ANOTHER SET

ANOTHER SET OF AMENDED REGULATIONS GAZETTED TODAY WILL REDUCE CONSIDERABLY THE TIME NEEDED TO DISPOSE OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VEHICLES ABANDONED ON THE ROADS.

UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING AND WAITING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974, WHERE A VEHICLE HAS REMAINED STATIONARY ON ANY ROAD FOR OVER 72 HOURS AND APPEARS TO THE POLICE TO BE ABANDONED, PROCEEDINGS CAN BEGIN ON HAVING THE VEHICLE REMOVED.

THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE VEHICLE WILL BE GIVEN A NOTICE, EITHER BY SENDING IT TO HIS ADDRESS OR BY FIXING IT TO THE VEHICLE, REQUIRING HIM TO REMOVE IT TO ANOTHER PLACE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

IF THE REQUIREMENT IS NOT COMPLIED WITH, THE POLICE WILL BE EMPOWERED TO REMOVE THE VEHICLE TO A SPECIFIED POUND AND IF IT IS NOT CLAIMED WITHIN 21 DAYS IT WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN AND CAN BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION OR TENDER, OR SIMPLY DISPOSED OF FOR SCRAP.

PREVIOUSLY, AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS HAD TO ELAPSE BETWEEN THE TIME AN ABANDONED VEHICLE WAS REMOVED AND THE TIME IT WAS FINALLY DISPOSED OF.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ABANDONED VEHICLES CREATED MANY PROBLEMS -- ENVIRONMENTAL AS WELL AS TRAFFIC -- AND THIS IS CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT LAST YEAR ALONE THE POLICE HAD TO DEAL WITH SOME 4,000 REPORTS OF SUCH VEHICLES.

NOT ONLY DO THE VEHICLES CAUSE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN ALREADY CROWDED STREETS= IN MANY CASES THEY ALSO TAKE UP VALUABLE ON-STREET PARKING FACILITIES WHICH WOULD BE UTILISED BY MOTORISTS, + HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF MISTAKING AN ABANDONED CAR FOR ONE WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN LEFT ON THE STREET WHILE THE OWNER HAS BEEN AWAY FROM HONG KONG OR OTHERWISE INDISPOSED. ABANDONED CARS ARE EASILY RECOGNISABLE AS THEY USUALLY HAVE PARTS MISSING, ARE CORRODING AWAY AND THE LICENCE HAS EXPIRED.

ANOTHER PROVISION INCREASES THE REMOVAL CHARGE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE FROM \$50 TO \$60 AND INCREASES THE STORAGE CHARGE FROM \$1 TO \$20 FOR EACH DAY, AFTER THE SECOND DAY, DURING WHICH THE VEHICLE IS DETAINED.

THE INCREASE WAS RECOMMENDED AFTER A DETAILED COST INVESTIGATION WAS MADE INTO THE REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES. THE STUDY SHOWED THAT IN ORDER TO COVER THE COSTS INVOLVED THE CHARGES SHOULD BE INCREASED.

THE CHARGES HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THEY WERE INTRODUCED IN 1964.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974.

- 5 -

NEW RULES FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS CARRYING DANGEROUS GOODS

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MORE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES GOVERNING THE HANDLING, STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS, AND THE LOADING AND DISCHARGE OF THESE CONTAINERS ARE BEING INTRODUCED UNDER TWO SETS OF AMENDED REGULATIONS GAZETTED TODAY.

THESE MEASURES, CONTAINED IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974 AND THE DANGEROUS GOODS (SHIPPING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974, ARE THE RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN A REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS GOODS IN CONTAINERS.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED IN OCTOBER 1970 BY THE DANGEROUS GOODS STANDING COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL ALL ASPECTS RELATING TO THE HANDLING OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL IN ANTICIPATION OF A RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE USE OF THIS MODE OF TRANSPORT.

THE REPORT, COMPLETED IN MARCH 1972, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ENDORSED BY THE DANGEROUS GOODS STANDING COMMITTEE.

CONTRAVENTION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974 IS PUNISHABLE, UPON CONVICTION, WITH A FINE OF \$8,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THESE REGULATIONS MAINLY ADD A NEW PART XIA TO THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE HANDLING, STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN CONTAINERS.

ONE REGULATION STIPULATES THAT FREIGHT CONTAINERS HOLDING CERTAIN DANGEROUS GOODS SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATIONS MUST, EXCEPT WHEN THEY ARE BEING HANDLED AT AN APPROVED CONTAINER TERMINAL, BE STORED AT LICENSED PREMISES. RESTRICTIONS ON THE STORAGE IN APPROVED CONTAINER TERMINALS OF FREIGHT CONTAINERS HOLDING DANGEROUS GOODS, OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED, ARE ALSO LAID DOWN.

ANOTHER REGULATION PROVIDES FOR THE LABELLING OF CONTAINERS CARRYING MANUFACTURED FIREWORKS AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES.

A NEW REGULATION PROVIDES THAT FREIGHT CONTAINERS WITH DANGEROUS GOODS MAY ONLY BE CONVEYED IN APPROVED VEHICLES.

A TERMINAL OPERATOR IS REQUIRED UNDER THE REGULATIONS TO UNPACK A FREIGHT CONTAINER IMMEDIATELY AFTER LANDING IF IT HOLDS BOTH DANGEROUS AND NON-DANGEROUS GOODS, AND HE MUST ALSO REMOVE THE DANGEROUS GOODS TO A LICENSED DANGEROUS GOODS STORE AT ONCE.

A TABLE LISTING THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF DANGEROUS GOODS REFERRED TO IN THE REGULATIONS IS ALSO PUBLISHED.

THE DANGEROUS GOODS (SHIPPING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1974 ADDS A NEW REGULATION DEALING WITH THE LOADING AND DISCHARGING OF FREIGHT CONTAINERS HOLDING DANGEROUS GOODS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974

- 6 -

AN EXISTING REGULATION HAS BEEN REVOKED AND REPLACED BY A NEW ONE TO INCLUDE PROVISION FOR THE MODES OF STORAGE IN A TYPE III VESSEL FOR DANGEROUS GOODS IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS AS WELL AS IN CONVENTIONAL PACKAGING. A TYPE III VESSEL IS ONE TRADING WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS.

ANOTHER EXISTING REGULATION HAS BEEN AMENDED TO RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF VESSELS CARRYING FREIGHT CONTAINERS HOLDING DANGEROUS GOODS TO APPROVED CONTAINER TERMINALS OR OTHER PLACES APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

THE VARIOUS APPROVED CONTAINER TERMINALS ARE LISTED.

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SOCIAL GATHERING FOR THE ELDERLY

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SOME 300 ELDERLY PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS HOMES FOR THE AGED IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY 150 STUDENTS DURING A SOCIAL GATHERING THIS SATURDAY (MAY 11), AT THE WILLIAM BOOTH SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TSZ WAN SHAN.

THE FUNCTION, WHICH WILL LAST FROM 2.00 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M., IS SPONSORED BY THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

+THIS FUNCTION HAS AN EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE, + SAID MISS ELENA LUI HAH-WAH, CHAIRMAN OF THE FUNCTION'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

IT WILL HELP THE CHILDREN TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY AND AT THE SAME TIME FACILITATE AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GENERATIONS, SHE SAID.

ENTERTAINMENT PLANNED FOR THE DAY WILL COMPRISE FOLK DANCING, CHOIR MUSIC, STAGE OPERA AND DRAMA, AND A GYMNASTIC SHOW ALL PERFORMED BY STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

OFFICIATING WILL BE MR. MICHAEL WONG HAH-KAE AND MR. CHAN HO-KWONG, WHO ARE THE ORGANIZING PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT RESPECTIVELY.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTERWARDS AND GIFTS PRESENTED TO EACH OF THOSE ATTENDING.

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17

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974

- 7 -

BUILDING FOREMEN, SITE AGENTS URGED TO SET GOOD EXAMPLE
IN SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, TODAY (FRIDAY) MADE A JOINT VISIT TO MAJOR CONSTRUCTION SITES IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON TO SEE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S NEW CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS IN OPERATION.

THEY VISITED THE SITE OF THE \$150 MILLION WORLD TRADE CENTRE PROJECT IN GLOUCESTER ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE SITE OF THE ARGYLE STREET FLYOVER COMPLEX IN KOWLOON.

AT THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED 42-STOREY TRADE CENTRE - DUE FOR COMPLETION IN DECEMBER 1975 - MR. HENDERSON AND MR. MCDONALD WERE MET BY THE PROJECT ARCHITECT, MR. BRETON PENMAN OF ERIC CUMINE AND ASSOCIATES AND MR. GEOFFREY YEH, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE HSIN CHONG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, WHICH IS BUILDING THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

DURING A TOUR OF THE SITE MR. YEH EXPLAINED THE METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION, THE PRINCIPAL EQUIPMENT USED AND THE SAFETY POLICY ADOPTED ON THE SITE.

MR. YEH SAID THE SITE FOREMAN, THE SITE AGENT AND HE HIMSELF HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED A CONSTRUCTION SITES SAFETY TRAINING COURSE AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE. +WE HAVE FOUND THE TRAINING INVALUABLE IN DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS ON THE SITE,+ HE SAID.

MR. HENDERSON PRAISED MR. YEH'S COMPANY FOR ITS PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS SAFETY.

+SAFETY POLICIES WORK ONLY WHEN THEY ARE INITIATED AT THE TOP LEVEL,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTIVATING SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG WORKERS, AND SAID FOREMEN AND SITE AGENTS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ACCIDENT PREVENTION, BECAUSE THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING WORKERS ON THE RIGHT TRACK IN SAFE WORK PRACTICES.

+SET THE WORKERS A GOOD EXAMPLE AND MAKE SURE THEY FOLLOW IT,+ HE SAID. +YOU NOT ONLY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THE JOB DONE, BUT ALSO OF MAKING SURE IT IS DONE SAFELY.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GIVING ITS COMPLETE BACKING TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO CUT BACK THE ACCIDENT TOLL IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

+I HAVE ALREADY ISSUED A CIRCULAR TO MY STAFF STRESSING OUR SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE APPLICATION OF THE NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS,+ HE SAID. +THE P.W.D. HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A STRONG INTEREST IN BUILDING SAFETY, AND WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE NEW REGULATIONS

/+MY DEPARTMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974

- 8 -

+MY DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH ITS CONTRACTORS ABOUT THESE REGULATIONS. WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE RESPONSE BOTH TO THE REGULATIONS AND TO THE GENERAL DRIVE TO IMPROVE WORK SAFETY.

+THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS, OF COURSE, ONE OF THE MAJOR CLIENTS OF HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, AND ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO FURTHER THIS CAMPAIGN WILL HAVE MY TOTAL SUPPORT,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

AT THE SITE OF THE \$37 MILLION ARGYLE STREET ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, MR. HENDERSON AND MR. MCDONALD WERE MET BY THE RESIDENT ENGINEER, MR. THEODORE HAWKINS, AND MR. DAVID HO, A DIRECTOR OF THE GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED, THE PRINCIPAL P.W.D. CONTRACTOR ON THE PROJECT.

MR. HO TOLD THE PARTY THAT THREE FIRST AID ROOMS HAD BEEN SET UP IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON THE SITE AND TWO STAFF MEMBERS WERE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING FIRST AID TRAINING.

UNDER THE NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS, A SITE WITH 30 WORKERS MUST HAVE ONE PERSON TRAINED IN FIRST AID, AND A SITE WITH 100 WORKERS MUST HAVE TWO.

+BECAUSE OF THE WIDE RANGE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT USED ON THE SITE - SUCH AS MOBILE CRANES, GANTRY CRANES, EXCAVATORS AND ELECTRIC HOISTS - SPECIAL SAFETY MEASURES ARE BEING ADOPTED,+ MR. HO SAID.

MR. MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT INVESTMENT IN SAFETY AND THE TIME TAKEN FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FREE SAFETY COURSES PAID OFF IN THE CUTTING-DOWN OF ACCIDENT COSTS, IN MINIMISING DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AND IN GETTING THE JOB COMPLETED IN TIME.

MR. HENDERSON SAID : +WITH THE BACKING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER LIAISON WITH THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND THE SOCIETY OF BUILDERS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS WILL FUNCTION SMOOTHLY.

+LAST YEAR MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER 5,000 INJURED IN CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENTS. THAT'S ONE IN EVERY SIX WORK ACCIDENTS IN HONG KONG DURING THE YEAR.

+AND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, 1,262 WORKERS HAVE BEEN INJURED AND 20 KILLED IN CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENTS.

+WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE THIS TOLL REDUCED,+ HE STRESSED.

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (FRIDAY) 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 CHINA RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
SEE NEW		
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.21
S.C.JIEN		
- OLD CROP	--	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.16
PO NGAI	GOOD	1.72
CHU CHO	--	-
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	--	-
10-15% BROKENS	--	-
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.92
A1 SUPER	--	-
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	2.03
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.92
PAKISTAN RICE	--	-
TAIWAN RICE	--	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPEICES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.50	2.50	3.80
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.60	0.60	1.80
SQUID	LIMITED	5.70	1.80	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.50	1.00	2.00
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.30	1.20	1.80
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.50	0.70	1.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	GOOD	1.60	1.00	1.30
MELON COAT	SCARCE	1.60	0.40	0.80
BREAMS	NORMAL	4.00	2.30	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.80	0.50	1.50
MACKERELS	GOOD	3.50	2.50	3.00
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	0.70	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.20	0.60	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	5.70	2.80	4.50
MELON SEED	--	--	--	--
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.50	6.50	7.50
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	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	LIMITED	1.30	0.60	1.00
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	0.50	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	1.50	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	4.00	2.00	3.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.50	0.30	1.00
SPINACH	--	NO SALE		
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	0.80	0.30	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
CABBAGE	--	--	--	--
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80