

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Thursday, August 17, 1972

MARGINAL DROP IN COST OF LIVING

The cost of living dropped slightly in Hong Kong during July. The General Consumer Price Index stood at 138, four points lower than that for the previous month.

The fall was due mainly to a decrease of seven points in the index for food. An increase of eight points in the index for transport and vehicles, and one point in the index for miscellaneous goods were also recorded.

Movements in the indexes for other commodities and services were insignificant.

For the Consumer Price Index different weights are attached to the various sections to show their relative importance. Consequently food carries the highest weight and transport and vehicles one of the lowest, based on the expenditure pattern of the average household.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department said today that as supplies returned to normal in July, the average retail prices of fresh vegetables, fresh water fish, salt water fish and poultry all showed a considerable fall. Beans and peas, butter and margarine were also priced lower. However, higher retail prices were recorded for other fish, fresh fruits, tea, beef, bread and cakes.

/The spokesman

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 2 -

The spokesman pointed out that the section index for transport and vehicles rose by eight points as a result of the revision of bus and tram fares on Hong Kong Island which came into force on July 1.

The Modified Consumer Price Index for July was 142, also four points lower than the June figure, but seven points higher than that for the same month last year.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 3 -

DANGEROUS BENDS TO BE IMPROVED

Four dangerous bends on Peak Road on Hong Kong Island are to be improved to provide safer conditions for motorists.

The bends are located near the junctions with Gough Hill Path, Bluff Path, near house number 71 and the Peak Police Station.

The work will form the first phase of an overall project to improve all dangerous bends along Peak Road, Stubbs Road, Tai Hang Road and Repulse Bay Road.

These bends are substandard and inadequate for present day traffic, particularly for commercial vehicles, regular bus services and especially tourist buses.

Most of the tourist buses are up to 30 feet long compared with 25 feet for most other commercial vehicles. None of the bends will allow 30 foot vehicles to pass in safety and some of them are regarded as unsafe for 25-foot long vehicles.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 4 -

MORE GRANTS FROM SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION

Grants totalling over \$332,000 from the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation have been approved to enable organisations to carry out recreational programmes for the community.

The Governor Sir Murray MacLehose, gave his approval before he left for Britain on leave.

This was announced today (Thursday) by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C.C. Luddington, who is the ex officio Chairman of the Informal Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor to advise him on the use of the Fund's resources.

Individual applicants for grants will be informed of the Governor's decision by letter.

The great majority of the grants are to initiate or foster new projects and assist organisations which have been unable to obtain help from public funds or other major sources.

Most of them are for the provision of recreational facilities, sports equipment, musical instruments and library books.

Mr. Luddington said: "In considering the applications, the Advisory Committee has had to choose projects from amongst requests for funds which totalled just under \$1½ million. The available income from the Fund this year amounted to \$332,850 so this was a difficult task and some worthy applications inevitably had to be reduced or rejected."

/He said

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 5 -

He said it was unfortunate that the resources of the fund had been unable to meet all the worthwhile requests, and added that he would welcome further public support in the form of donations to increase the Fund's capital.

Contributions can be sent to Mr. Luddington direct at the Secretariat for Home Affairs, International Building, or through any City District Office.

The Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation was set up in February 1970 with an anonymous donation of \$3 million for the provision of facilities for recreation, sports, cultural and social activities, and related purposes. Emphasis is placed on encouraging the purposeful use of leisure by young people.

Sixty-four different organisations have received grants for a variety of recreational projects and year-round activities.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 6 -

EXPORT RESTRAINT ON CERTAIN COTTON DENIMS TO AUSTRALIA

The Hong Kong Government has decided to restrain exports to Australia of cotton denims, in the year ending August 31, 1973.

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Jack Cater, announced today that this followed consultations with the Australian Government and was on the advice of the Textiles Advisory Board.

The Commerce and Industry Department has temporarily suspended the licensing for export of these textiles to Australia pending the implementation of the control scheme from September 1.

Shippers have been invited to submit to the Department complete schedules of their exports to Australia of denims during the period July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972. Returns must reach the Department before 12.00 noon on Saturday week (August 26).

Trade Associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters Series 5 will receive copies of the relevant Notice shortly.

Anyone wishing to seek further information is invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:

Mr. H.W.K. Lai - Assistant Trade Officer

Tel. No. H-252858

Mr. C.K. Lai - Industry Assistant

Tel. No. H-445666.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 7 -

HARBOUR REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

Representatives from the Marine Department's Pollution Control Unit are boarding ships which have been in the harbour for 48 hours as part of a drive to publicise its refuse collection service.

If these ships have any refuse to dispose of arrangements will be made for its collection.

The special harbour service, which is free of charge, is for ocean-going vessels in Victoria Harbour and will continue until further notice.

The Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, said today that the master of any ship who wanted to make use of the service did not have to wait for his vessel to be boarded, but could make appropriate arrangements through his agent or the Marine Department.

He reminded masters, owners and agents that under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance it is an offence to deposit any refuse into the harbour or in the waters of Hong Kong. The maximum penalty, on conviction, is a fine of \$4,000 and imprisonment for six months.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 8 -

YOUTH CAMP VISIT

A Legislative Councillor, Mr. Wilson Wang, will visit the Sheung See Bay Work Camp in Sai Kung tomorrow (Friday).

The Camp, being attended by about 45 young people, is organised by the Sherwood Club, one of the self-programming groups sponsored by the Social Welfare Department.

They are engaged in the levelling and cementing of a playground in Sheung Yeung Village. The campers work during the day and in the evenings join in social programmes with the local villagers.

Mr. Wang will be accompanied on the visit by Mr. Stephen Law Chi-kin, a Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer.

The work camp will end on Sunday.

Note to Editors: You are invited to have this visit covered.

A station wagon will be provided at the Tsimshatsui Sub-pool behind the Tsimshatsui Post Office at 2.30 p.m. to take the press to the camp. A Social Welfare Officer will be on hand to assist them

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Thursday, August 17, 1972

- 9 -

UMELCO MEMBERS VISIT NEW TERRITORIES

Note to Editors: Mr. Wilson T.S. Wang and Mr. H.M.G. Forsgate, UMELCO members, will visit three areas in the New Territories on Saturday, August 19.

This is one of the normal series of UMELCO visits to New Territories districts.

On this occasion it will start off with a call on Ling Shan Village from which a complaint has been received about the dirty conditions there.

The visit coincides with the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" campaign.

From Ling Shan, Mr. Wang and Mr. Forsgate will go to Shek Wu Hui in Sheung Shui and Lin Wo Hui in Fan Ling.

The UMELCO members will be accompanied on the tour by Mr. I.F.C. Macpherson, Deputy District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. H.S. Grewal, District Officer, Tai Po, Mr. David Lan, Assistant Director (New Territories), Urban Services Department, and Mr. Henry Ma, Assistant Secretary, UMELCO Office.

You are invited to have the tour covered. Official transport will be provided. A 14-seater van, AM2132, will leave the Tsim Sha Tsui sub-pool at 8.40 a.m. sharp to bring the press party to Fan Ling.

The same van will bring the press party back to Tsim Sha Tsui at the end of the tour which is expected to be around 12 noon.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 6.45 p.m.