



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1974.

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1974.

- 1 -

NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. CONTAINS SUBSTANTIAL
IMPROVEMENTS
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SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS COVERING EXPORTS OF HONG KONG TEXTILES TO THE UNITED STATES ARE CONTAINED IN A NEW THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WHICH COMES INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

AFTER CONSIDERING THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD HAS RECOMMENDED THAT IT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THE AGREEMENT, DETAILS OF WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY, WAS NEGOTIATED IN WASHINGTON WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BY A HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

MR. MILLS SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTER-LINKING ARRANGEMENT GOVERNING THE EXPORT OF HONG KONG-MADE COTTON, MAN-MADE FIBRE AND WOOL TEXTILES TO THE U.S.

THE NEW AGGREGATE LIMIT HAS BEEN AGREED AT APPROXIMATELY 835 MILLION EQUIVALENT SQUARE YARDS, AND THIS WILL INCREASE BY JUST OVER SIX PER CENT ANNUALLY TO REACH 943 MILLION EQUIVALENT SQUARE YARDS BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 1977 WHEN THE AGREEMENT EXPIRES.

IN COMPARISON, THE AGGREGATE LIMITS LAID DOWN UNDER THE EXISTING TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. AMOUNT TO 792 MILLION EQUIVALENT SQUARE YARDS.

THE AGREEMENT RELATES TO FOUR GROUPS OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS - YARNS AND FABRICS, GARMENTS, MADE-UPS AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS, AND WOOL PRODUCTS.

MR. MILLS SAID THAT, WITHIN THE YARNS AND FABRICS AND APPAREL GROUPS, CERTAIN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ITEMS HAVE BEEN GIVEN SPECIFIC LIMITS. BUT FOR THE OTHER ITEMS THERE IS FULL INTER-FIBRE FLEXIBILITY SO THAT COMPANIES CAN USE THEIR QUOTA FOR PRODUCTS EITHER OF COTTON OR MAN-MADE FIBRE, DEPENDING ON THE PATTERN OF DEMAND. THIS FULL INTER-FIBRE FLEXIBILITY IS NOT POSSIBLE AT PRESENT BECAUSE COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRE TEXTILES ARE SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT SETS OF ARRANGEMENTS.

OTHER FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS IN THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW AGREEMENT AND IMPROVED UPON. THE "SWING" MARGINS - WHEREBY YARDAGE IN ONE PRODUCT AREA CAN BE USED FOR THE SHIPMENT OF GOODS IN ANOTHER PRODUCT AREA - HAVE BEEN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

THE ABILITY TO CARRY UNUSED YARDAGE FROM ONE YEAR INTO THE NEXT HAS BEEN CONTINUED AND A NEW FEATURE OF THE AGREEMENT IS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO BORROW YARDAGE FROM THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S LIMITS, IF DEMAND REQUIRES THIS.

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THERE HAS BEEN SOME MERGING OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES IN THE APPAREL GROUP WHICH WILL ENABLE COMPANIES TO REACT MORE FLEXIBLY TO MARKET DEMANDS FOR THESE ITEMS.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT FASHION DEMAND FOR MATCHING COTTON LEISURE JACKETS AND TROUSERS. THE U.S. HAS AGREED THAT THIS FACILITY CAN BE USED IMMEDIATELY AND THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED.

+ONE PARTICULAR AREA OF DIFFICULTY THAT HAS PLAGUED US/HK TEXTILE RELATIONS IN THE PAST,+ MR. MILLS SAID, +HAS BEEN THE SO-CALLED TRIGGER POINT SYSTEM WHEREBY PRODUCTS REACHING PRE-DETERMINED LEVELS COULD BE RESTRAINED UNILATERALLY BY THE US IF WE FAILED TO AGREE THAT A CASE FOR RESTRAINT HAD BEEN MADE.

+UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION MUST BE BASED ON THE HONG KONG EXPORT AUTHORIZATION REPORTING SYSTEM AND MARKET CONDITIONS IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, ANY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S. ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER LIMITS CAN BE REFERRED TO THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY IN GENEVA FOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MATTER.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS,+ ADDED MR. MILLS, +BUT IT IS OBVIOUSLY A USEFUL THING TO BE ABLE TO FALL BACK ON SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.+

MR. MILLS SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES THE WOOL SECTOR OF THE U.S. TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS EXPERIENCING AT THE MOMENT, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SECURE ANY SIGNIFICANT GROWTH ON THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS COVERING HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF WOOL TEXTILES.

+HOWEVER, THE NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES A LITTLE MORE EXPORT CAPACITY THAN THE PRESENT ONE,+ HE SAID, +AND THE AGGREGATE LIMIT FOR WOOL OF 41 MILLION SQUARE YARDS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COVER THE CURRENT VOLUME OF TRADE.+

MR. MILLS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED SOME HARD BARCAINING BY BOTH SIDES, THE HONG KONG DELEGATION FELT THAT THE U.S. TEAM WAS PREPARED TO RECOGNISE HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES, AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IN THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WERE MR. PETER TSAO, MR. BRIAN CHAU AND MR. PATRICK LAU. THEY WERE JOINED BY MR. ALEC LERMAN, COUNSELLOR FOR HONG KONG COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

FOUR MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD - MR. B.I. BARLOU, MR. C.K. CHOU, MR. JACK TANG AND MR. FRANCIS TIEN - SERVED AS INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS TO THE HONG KONG DELEGATION THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

MR. MILLS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ADVISERS WHO HAD MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

CLEAN AIR AND THE LAW
FREE EXPLANATORY HANDBOOK AVAILABLE
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A SECOND EDITION OF ITS BOOKLET +CLEAN AIR AND THE LAW+ WHICH AIMS TO ASSIST THE OCCUPIER OF ANY PREMISES USING A FURNACE, OVEN OR CHIMNEY TO UNDERSTAND HIS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE.

THE BOOKLET, IN CHINESE AND IN ENGLISH, IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 4TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

+FUEL-USERS SUCH AS RESTAURANT OWNERS AND FACTORY PROPRIETORS ARE WELCOME TO USE OUR FREE ADVISORY SERVICE BY RINGING 3-688924 OR 3-688954,+ THE HEAD OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, MR. DAVID NEWBURY, SAID TODAY. +FAR TOO OFTEN FUEL-USERS ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT THEY SHOULD DO TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW.+

+I WOULD STRONGLY ADVISE RESTAURANT OWNERS AND FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES. ONE TELEPHONE CALL FOR FREE ADVICE WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN SAVING FUEL AND SAVING MONEY AS WELL AS DOING AWAY WITH THE RISK OF A FINE.+

MR. NEWBURY POINTED OUT THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, A KOWLOON RESTAURANT WAS FINED \$4,100 THIS WEEK FOR FAILING TO OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TOWN-GAS FIRED STOVES IN ITS KITCHEN.

MR. NEWBURY EXPLAINED THAT THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED THAT ANY OCCUPIER OF PREMISES WHO WISHED TO INSTALL OR MAKE ALTERATIONS TO ANY FURNACE, OVEN OR CHIMNEY SHOULD SUPPLY FULL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE INSTALLATION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR FOR PRIOR APPROVAL AT LEAST 28 DAYS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WORK.

+FUEL-USERS WHOSE FURNACE, OVEN OR CHIMNEY CONSUMES MORE THAN FIVE GALLONS OF LIQUID FUEL PER HOUR, 70 POUNDS OF SOLID FUEL PER HOUR, OR 10 THERMS OF GAS PER HOUR HAVE TO APPLY,+ HE SAID.

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PRESS CONFERENCE BY TEL. COMMITTEE
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. WOO PAK-CHUEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT HIS COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE PRESS CONFERENCE STARTS AT 11 A.M. IN THE 35 MM THEATRE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE IT COVERED.

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SIR DUNCAN WATSON TO VISIT HONG KONG

SIR DUNCAN WATSON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON SUNDAY, (MAY 26) FOR A TWO-WEEK VISIT.

HE WILL BE MET BY THE ADC TO THE GOVERNOR, MR. P.A. BARKLEY, AND THE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, BRIGADIER R.G. LEWTHWAITE. SIR DUNCAN WILL STAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

DURING HIS VISIT, THE DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE WILL MEET SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND STUDY THE LOCAL SITUATION AT FIRST HAND.

HE IS ALSO TO HAVE TALKS WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND URBAN COUNCILS.

HE WILL RETURN TO LONDON ON JUNE 6.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF SIR DUNCAN WATSON:

SIR DUNCAN WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN 1972. HE FIRST JOINED THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN CYPRUS BETWEEN 1938-43. HE WAS ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY, TRINIDAD FROM 1943 TO 1945. IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SIR DUNCAN WAS ON SECONDMENT TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE AS PRINCIPAL AND TRANSFERRED TO HOME CIVIL SERVICE IN 1947.

AMONG OTHER POSTS HE HAD SERVED WERE: PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, 1947-50= ASST. SECRETARY, COLONIAL OFFICE, 1950-62= CENTRAL AF. OFFICE, 1962-63= UNDER-SECRETARY, 1963= ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, C.O. AND C.R.O., 1964-67= POLITICAL ADVISER TO C-IN-C FAR EAST, 1967-70= AND HIGH COMMISSIONER IN MALTA, 1970-72.

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THE BUDGET AND THE RESERVES

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, TODAY GAVE A-COMPREHENSIVE OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE 1974/75 BUDGET AND THE RESERVES IN A TALK TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH.

MR. JORDAN EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THE REASONS AND THINKING BEHIND THE ESTIMATES OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND REVENUE FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, THE NECESSITY FOR RAISING CERTAIN TAXES AND THE MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES, TO KEEP HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IN A HEALTHY CONDITION.

COPIES OF HIS TALK, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY PLACES: LONG-RANGE AIM

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. CHARLES LOWE, SAID TODAY THAT A COMPLETE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG WOULD BE IN SIGHT ONLY WHEN THE LONG-RANGE AIM OF PROVIDING A FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY PLACE FOR ANY PUPIL WHO WANTED IT WAS ACHIEVED.

+EVEN SO, IT MAY ONLY BE A PARTIAL SOLUTION BECAUSE THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE SUBSIDIZED PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE SELECTIVE WITH THEIR OWN ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS AND WITH THE RESULT THAT A PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION IS NECESSARY TO ENTER A QUALITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WE HAVE KINDERGARTENS PLACING GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE ACADEMIC LEARNING THEY CAN INSTIL,+ MR. LOWE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM WAS NOT EASY. BUT, HE SAID, +UNTIL SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT A FAIR SAMPLE OF THE CHILD POPULATION FOR ENTRY, POSSIBLY BY RANDOM SELECTION, ONE IN THREE OR ONE IN FOUR AS THE CASE MAY BE, WE SHALL MERELY BE EXCHANGING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL-BASED EXAMINATIONS AND THE SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE VERY COMPETITIVE NATURE OF HONG KONG SOCIETY.

+NEVERTHELESS, ONE WELCOMES EACH NEW FIVE-YEAR COURSE AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL THAT IS BEING BUILT AS A SMALL STEP FORWARD TO PROVIDING THE FIVE-YEAR COURSES THAT WILL HELP TO REDUCE THE TREMENDOUS COMPETITION FOR FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY PLACES AMONG THE CHILDREN OF HONG KONG.+

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR WAS SPEAKING AT OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY COLLEGE, WHICH HE OPENED AND WHICH WAS BLESSED BY BISHOP PETER LEI.

THE NEW SCHOOL, OPERATED BY THE SISTERS ANNOUNCERS OF THE LORD, WAS FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH ASSISTANCE OF A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$100,000 FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB AND A MOST ENERGETIC FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN BY THE SISTERS WHO RAISED \$120,000.

ON PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, MR. LOWE SAID THAT THE S.S.E.E. COULD POSSIBLY BE REPLACED BY CUMULATIVE SCHOOL RECORDS AND ASSESSMENTS AND BY LINKING A NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH A SECONDARY SCHOOL WHICH WOULD DO ITS OWN SELECTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STAFF OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

+THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID, +BUT UNLESS WE ARE CAREFUL, THE REPLACEMENT OF THE S.S.E.E. WITH A FAR MORE ELABORATE SELECTION AND ATTAINMENT EXAMINATION AFTER FORM III MAY BE RATHER RISKY AS WELL AS TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT - ATTAINMENT AND SELECTION TESTS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT AND DO NOT COMBINE EASILY= ONE FEARS THE RESULT OF THIS EXAMINATION ON TEACHING IN FORMS I-III.

/+AT PRESENT

+AT PRESENT, THERE IS A CLEAR RUN THROUGH IN THE FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND PUPILS DO NOT HAVE TO START PREPARING FOR THE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION COURSES IN FORM IV IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING A MAJOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION IN FORM III.+

EARLIER, MR. LOWE EXPRESSED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THE SPONSORING BODIES - THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

HE SAID THAT ONCE A SCHOOL WAS BUILT, THE NEXT CHALLENGE FACING THE SPONSORS WAS TO ESTABLISH IT AS A GOING CONCERN TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS RUNNING WELL WITH A GRADUAL BUT STEADY IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARD.

+THIS STANDARD IS NOT BY ANY MEANS ENTIRELY ACADEMIC, THOUGH THAT IS THE MOST EASILY QUANTIFIABLE AND POSSIBLY THE MOST VISIBLE. THE STANDARD MUST LIE IN THE SERVICE TO PUPILS IN PREPARING THEM FOR ADULT LIFE IN HONG KONG BY GIVING MORAL TRAINING AS WELL AS ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. LOWE'S SPEECH, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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BRIGHTENING UP CHAI WAN YOUTH CENTRE
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RESIDENTS AND WORKERS OF CHAI WAN DISTRICT WILL JOIN FORCES OVER THE WEEKEND TO GIVE THE CHAI WAN YOUTH RECREATION CENTRE A BRIGHT NEW LOOK.

LOCAL RESIDENTS, STUDENTS, VOLUNTARY WORKERS, AND STAFF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) AND CHAI WAN POLICE STATION WILL UP BRUSHES AND HAMMERS IN THIS PAINT-UP AND REPAIR OPERATION TOMORROW AND ON SUNDAY.

THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL, INCLUDING SAWS, BRUSHES, PAINT, WOODEN PLANKS AND RAILS, HAVE BEEN DONATED BY PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS IN THE DISTRICT.

MR. STEPHEN HO, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (EASTERN), WILL TAKE PART IN THE PAINTING WORK ON SUNDAY (MAY 26).

THE CHAI WAN YOUTH RECREATION CENTRE WAS DONATED BY THE ARMY IN 1971, AND HAS PROVED VERY POPULAR WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS RUN BY A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PAINT-UP OPERATION WHICH BEGINS AT 10 A.M. ON SUNDAY. THE CENTRE IS LOCATED OPPOSITE BLOCK 13, CHAI WAN ESTATE.

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**MORE LITTER WARDENS TO KEEP TIGHT REIN
ON LAP SAP CHUNGS
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MORE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ARE TO JOIN FORCES WITH U.S.D. LITTER WARDENS TO BRING HOME THE MESSAGE OF KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN TO DIE-HARD LITTER BUGS.

THESE INCLUDE MEN FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, FIRE SERVICES, IMMIGRATION, LABOUR, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, TRANSPORT AS WELL AS THE URBAN SERVICES.

THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF FOURTH SCHEDULE) ORDER 1974, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, EMPOWERS SENIOR STAFF OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, WHO EITHER WEAR UNIFORMS OR NORMALLY HAVE DIRECT DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC, TO SERVE NOTICES INSTITUTING PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LITTER OFFENDERS.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS MOVE IS TO INCREASE THE +ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE+ OF THE EXISTING LITTER LAWS AND ALSO REFLECTS THE GREATER IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS OF HONG KONG.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 1,000 POTENTIAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WILL BE ADDED TO THE REGULAR LITTER TEAMS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 100 FULL-TIME LITTER WARDENS AND ABOUT 1,450 USD STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE AUTHORISED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST LITTER OFFENDERS.

SINCE THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN BEGAN IN NOVEMBER 1972, A TOTAL OF ABOUT 60,000 LAP SAP CHUNGS HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED UP TO MAY 18 THIS YEAR.

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**FIRST REGISTRATION TAX TO BE RAISED
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TWO BILLS WHICH SEEK TO FORMALISE MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE 1974-75 BUDGET DEALING WITH VEHICLE LICENCE FEES AND FIRST REGISTRATION TAX ARE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE FIRST BILL, TO AMEND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, INCREASES THE LICENCE FEES OF MANY CATEGORIES OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE NEW FEES HAVE BEEN IN FORCE SINCE MARCH 28 AND WERE INTRODUCED TO RAISE ADDITIONAL REVENUE.

THE SECOND BILL SEEKS TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) ORDINANCE BY RAISING FROM 10 PER CENT TO 15 PER CENT THE TAX PAYABLE ON THE FIRST REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES.

IF APPROVED, THE BILLS WILL REPLACE THE TWO ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDINANCE. THESE ORDERS HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS THE LEGISLATION ITSELF AND ENABLE BUDGETARY PROPOSALS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY TO ENSURE THERE IS NO LOSS OF REVENUE PENDING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILLS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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HOUSING OFFICER HURT IN ATTACK

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AN OFFICER OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS ATTACKED AND INJURED THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING DURING A STRUGGLE WHICH OCCURRED AT THE TSZ WAN SHAN ESTATE.

THE STRUGGLE TOOK PLACE SHORTLY AFTER AN ESTATE TIDINESS TEAM HAD COMPLETED ITS ROUTINE ACTION AT BLOCK NINE TO 12.

EARLIER TODAY, A TIDINESS TEAM WAS SENT OUT TO THE BLOCKS TO CLEAR AWAY OBSTRUCTIONS CAUSED BY ESTATE TENANTS.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WENT UPSTAIRS AFTER HAVING REMOVED ONTO A LORRY SOME CHAIRS AND TABLES WHICH WERE CAUSING OBSTRUCTION OUTSIDE A CAFE AT BLOCK 11. AT THIS TIME THE LORRY DRIVER, WHO WAS STANDING ALONE AT THE SIDE OF HIS CAR, WAS ATTACKED AND PUNCHED SEVERAL TIMES. HOWEVER HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND DROVE THE VEHICLE TO THE ESTATE OFFICE AT BLOCK FOUR.

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, TWO YOUNG MEN ARMED WITH KNIVES APPROACHED THE ESTATE OFFICE AND WANTED TO CLAIM THE PROPERTY BACK. THE ESTATE OFFICE STAFF INFORMED THE POLICE WHO LATER ARRIVED AND BROUGHT THE YOUNG MEN AND THE DRIVER TO THE POLICE STATION FOR ENQUIRY.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS A GROUP OF PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE ESTATE OFFICE AND WHEN THE GROUP GREW IN SIZE THE ESTATE OFFICE STAFF LOCKED THE FRONT IRON GATE.

HOWEVER THE GATE WAS DAMAGED BY THE UNRULY CROWD WHO USED IRON BARS AND WATER PIPES TO BREAK IN BY FORCE.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE WHO TRIED TO STOP THEM FROM RUSHING INTO THE OFFICE WAS ATTACKED BY THE GROUP AND WAS HIT ON THE HEAD BY A HARD OBJECT WHICH RESULTED IN A FRACTURED SKULL.

POLICE WERE AGAIN CALLED TO THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OFFICER WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

NO ARREST HAS BEEN MADE AND POLICE ENQUIRIES ARE PROCEEDING.

COMMENTING ON THE INCIDENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT STRONGLY DENIED THAT ESTATE STAFF OFTEN USED FORCE WHEN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTY.

HE SAID THAT ALL STAFF HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTY.

+THE JOB IS A MOST UNTHANKFUL ONE BUT IT IS MOST ESSENTIAL TO GOOD ESTATE MANAGEMENT. WITHOUT THEIR EFFORT THE ESTATES WOULD SOON TURN INTO SLUMS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1974

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PROPOSALS FOR STANDARDISATION OF PLB FARES

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REPRESENTATIVES OF MINI-BUS ASSOCIATIONS WERE TODAY HANDED DETAILS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON THE STANDARDISATION OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES AT A MEETING WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE QUESTION OF THE STANDARDISATION OF FARES WAS FIRST RAISED WITH THE ASSOCIATIONS ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND AGAIN AT ANOTHER MEETING EARLIER THIS YEAR. AT THE TIME, THE ASSOCIATIONS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT PLAN.

UNDER THE SCHEME, ROUTES ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD HAVE A MAXIMUM STANDARD FARE OF 50 CENTS WHILE THE STANDARD MAXIMUM FARE FOR A JOURNEY ELSEWHERE ON THE ISLAND WOULD BE \$1.

IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES A MAXIMUM STANDARD FARE WOULD ALSO BE LAID DOWN IN THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS. FOR A JOURNEY WITHIN KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON IT WOULD BE 50 CENTS AND WITHIN THE NEW TERRITORIES \$1.50.

A MAXIMUM STANDARD FARE OF \$2 WOULD BE SET FOR ANY JOURNEY COMMENCING IN KOWLOON AND ENDING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OR VICE VERSA, AND ALSO FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS ALSO HAVE PROVISION FOR MAXIMUM SPECIAL FARES WHICH COULD BE CHARGED DURING SPECIFIED PERIODS SUCH AS AT PEAK HOURS, ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND DURING TYPHOONS. THESE WOULD ALLOW FOR A FARE UP TO TWICE THE MAXIMUM STANDARD FARE TO BE CHARGED.

NO DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE PROPOSED STANDARDISATION OF FARES AND ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AT WHICH THE PROPOSAL WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL AND THE VIEWS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE EXPRESSED.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MR. PETER MILLER, ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO MAKE THE SECTION OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD FROM THE TAIKOO DOCKS TO KAM WAH STREET AN URBAN CLEARWAY TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW AND PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING.

HOWEVER, ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINI-BUSES WERE SUGGESTED INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF TWO PLB STANDS IN SAI WAN HO STREET.

MR. MILLER AGREED TO HOLD A SITE MEETING WITH PLB REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SCHEME AND TO TRY TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DETAILS. HE INDICATED THAT THE CLEARWAY WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED UNTIL AT LEAST AUGUST OR EVEN LATER.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ALSO AGREED WITH A SUGGESTION THAT A PLB STAND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN SHU KUK STREET IN NORTH POINT. THIS STAND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION WITHIN A MONTH OR SO.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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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	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
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	--	-
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	--	-
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.95
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.87
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.67
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.98
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.91
PAKISTAN RICE	--	-
TAIWAN RICE	--	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 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	GOOD	2.80	1.50	2.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.70	0.60	1.70
SQUID	LIMITED	6.00	2.00	4.20
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.60	0.70	1.20
LAZARD FISHES	NORMAL	1.95	1.20	1.50
CROAKERS	NORMAL	0.90	0.50	0.70
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	1.50	1.00	1.20
MELON COAT	--	--	--	--
BREAMS	LIMITED	4.00	2.50	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.60	0.60	1.20
MACKERELS	NORMAL	3.80	2.20	3.00
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.50	0.30	0.40
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.00	0.60	0.80
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	4.80	2.50	4.00
MELON SEED	LIMITED	1.50	1.00	1.20
POMFRETS	SCARCE	7.50	5.50	6.50
CARROUPAS	NORMAL	6.50	4.70	5.50
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	0.60	0.20	0.40
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	0.80	0.30	0.50
STRING BEANS	GOOD	1.50	0.40	0.80
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	0.80	0.20	0.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE SPINACH	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.30
TOMATO	NORMAL	0.80	0.30	0.50

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