



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1977

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WATER RESTRICTIONS ALMOST A CERTAINTY

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HONG KONG IS STILL HEADED TOWARDS WATER RESTRICTIONS DESPITE THE RAINFALL OF THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER, MR. TOM TOMLINSON SAID TODAY.

+UNFORTUNATELY THE WEEKEND RAINFALL, UP TO 9 A.M. TODAY, ADDED LITTLE MORE THAN THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE DAY'S CONSUMPTION TO OUR RESERVOIRS,+ HE SAID.

+THE YIELD WAS DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW.+

MR. TOMLINSON SAID THAT THE YIELD ON SATURDAY WAS 110 MILLION GALLONS, AND ON SUNDAY 179 MILLION GALLONS.

THE AMOUNT OF WATER IN STORAGE WAS NOW 31,108 MILLION GALLONS -- OR ONLY ABOUT 46.2 PER CENT OF TOTAL RESERVOIR CAPACITY.

+AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, OUR RESERVOIRS HELD 42,649 MILLION GALLONS -- OR 63.3 PER CENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY,+ MR. TOMLINSON SAID.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. TUCKER, WARNED THAT UNLESS THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL RAINFALL IN THE CATCHMENT AREAS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IMPOSE LIMITED RESTRICTIONS ON SUPPLY IN ORDER TO CONSERVE WATER.

AT THE TIME MR. TUCKER INDICATED THAT THE INITIAL RESTRICTIONS WOULD APPLY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10 P.M. AND 6 A.M., BUT THEY WOULD BE EXTENDED UNLESS THE SITUATION IMPROVED.

MR. TUCKER SAID TODAY THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK ON WHETHER OR NOT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE AS PREDICTED.

HE REPEATED HIS APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTE.

HE SAID INSTANCES OF WASTE COULD BE REPORTED AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT BY RINGING 5-726311 ON HONG KONG ISLAND, OR 3-948261 IN KOWLOON.

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LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

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THERE WERE 86,000 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN HONG KONG IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO A SAMPLE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IN THAT MONTH.

THIS REPRESENTED 4.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE IN HONG KONG.

THESE FIGURES COMPARED WITH 109,000 OR 5.6 PER CENT IN MARCH 1976 AND 88,000 OR 4.6 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS EXPLAINED TODAY THAT IN THE SURVEY THE PEOPLE TAKEN TO BE UNEMPLOYED WERE THOSE AGED BETWEEN 14-64 AND WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, OR THOSE WHO HAD WORKED FOR LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY DATE, BUT WERE LOOKING FOR WORK.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT THE DEFINITION OF +UNEMPLOYMENT+ VARIED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, +UNEMPLOYED+ INCLUDED PEOPLE WHO HAD JUST LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO REALLY HAD NOT HAD MUCH OF A CHANCE TO PICK A JOB= WHO HAD JUST, BUT ONLY JUST, TAKEN UP WORK= WHO HAD TEMPORARILY, BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY, BEEN LAID OFF WORK= WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WHO WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT THE DECEMBER 1976 FIGURES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE 7.9 PER CENT AND 5.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

+ADJUSTING, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE LATEST HONG KONG FIGURE TO THE U.S.A. BASIS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HERE WAS REPRESENTED BY A FIGURE OF 3.5 PER CENT,+ HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT THERE WAS EFFECTIVELY NO CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BETWEEN MARCH 1976 AND MARCH 1977.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT SIMILAR INFORMATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INTERVALS. THE NEXT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

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REDUNDANT TEACHERS REGISTERED FOR PLACEMENT  
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PLACEMENT SERVICE TODAY BEGAN REGISTERING REDUNDANT TEACHERS AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF UNDER-UTILISED CLASSES IN SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

UP TO 5 P.M. 144 TEACHERS HAD PRESENTED THEMSELVES FOR REGISTRATION.

ALL TEACHERS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED IN WRITING THAT THEY MUST REGISTER BY 5 P.M. ON MAY 27 (FRIDAY).

MR. TANG YAN, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE PLACEMENT SERVICE, SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO PLACE REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN ALTERNATIVE POSTS IN OTHER SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE THERE WERE VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE OPENING OF NEW CLASSES, RETIREMENT AND NORMAL WASTAGE.

MR. TANG SAID THAT AS FROM JUNE 1 HIS PLACEMENT SERVICE WOULD START REFERRING REDUNDANT TEACHERS TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES OF OTHER SUBSIDISED PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT.

HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE TEACHERS CONCERNED WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY.

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MARINE LAUNCH SUPPLIES WATER TO REMOTE VILLAGES  
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VILLAGERS IN REMOTE TUNG AH ON HIGH ISLAND, SAI KUNG, WERE GREATLY RELIEVED WHEN MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCH NO. 31 CALLED THIS MORNING.

THE LAUNCH, CARRYING SOME 1,500 GALLONS OF FRESH WATER FOR THE USE OF THE VILLAGERS, TODAY MADE ITS FIRST SPECIAL TRIP TO HELP THEM TIDE OVER THE CURRENT DROUGHT.

MARINE DEPARTMENT STAFF BORROWED ABOUT 120 YARDS OF FIRE HOSE FOR THE SPECIAL OPERATION, AS THE DEEP-DRAUGHT LAUNCH COULD NOT GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHORE TO UNLOAD THE WATER.

THE WATER WAS PUMPED INTO INFLATABLE TANKS GIVEN TO THE VILLAGE BY THE ARMY EARLIER THIS MONTH.

THE 170 RESIDENTS OF TUNG AH AND NEARBY SHA KIU HAD BEEN DEPENDING ON WELL WATER AND A STREAM HALF AN HOUR AWAY FOR THEIR WATER SUPPLY.

THE WELLS HAVE DRIED UP LONG TIME AGO AND THE WATER IN THE STREAM HAS FAST DWINDLED.

THE RAIN OVER THE WEEKEND HELPED A LITTLE TO BRING SOME RELIEF BUT THE WATER IS STILL TOO MUDDY TO BE GOOD FOR DRINKING.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO CARRY WATER TO THE TWO VILLAGES BECAUSE THEY ARE BOTH INACCESSIBLE BY LAND TRANSPORT. TUNG AH WILL RECEIVE WATER THREE TIMES A WEEK AND SHA KIU ONCE A WEEK.

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D.C. AND I. TO STRENGTHEN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION DRIVE  
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THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS TO HAVE A NEW GRADE OF OFFICER AS PART OF ITS PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN ITS DRIVE TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY.

THESE OFFICERS WILL COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING STAFF IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ALREADY EMPLOYED IN THE WORK OF PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY, WHOSE NUMBERS MUST BE INCREASED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE TECHNIQUES OF PROMOTION MUST ALSO BE EXPANDED AS THE SERVICING DEMANDS OF WOULD-BE INVESTORS WERE INCREASING IN COMPLEXITY.

THE NEW OFFICERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HELP PLAN PROMOTION MISSIONS, TRAVEL OVERSEAS WITH THESE MISSIONS AND ATTEND TO THE FOLLOW-UP WORK GENERATED BY THEM. THEY WILL DEAL EXTENSIVELY WITH INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS RESULTING FROM THESE MISSIONS OR BY OTHER MEANS.

THIS WOULD INCLUDE LIAISING WITH, AND ASSISTING, THE MANAGEMENT OF OVERSEAS OR LOCAL INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS MAKING FEASIBILITY STUDIES WITH A VIEW TO SETTING UP NEW PRODUCTION FACILITIES HERE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE TYPE OF INVESTMENT DECISION WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING HIGHER TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES REQUIRED VERY DETAILED PRELIMINARY STUDIES WHICH, IN SOME CASES, MIGHT TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

THROUGHOUT THAT PERIOD, HE SAID, THE COMPANIES CONCERNED WERE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

+IT FOLLOWS, THEREFORE, THAT MANY OF THE ENQUIRIES GENERATED IN, SAY 1975 AND 1976, WILL STILL BE ON THE +ACTIVE+ LIST IN 1977 AND 1978 WHEN ADDITIONAL OVERSEAS MISSIONS ARE BEING MOUNTED. THESE ADDITIONAL MISSIONS WILL ALSO GENERATE A SIGNIFICANT - THOUGH UNPREDICTABLE - NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES WHICH WILL RAPIDLY INCREASE THE FOLLOW-UP WORKLOAD,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO MAKE LOCAL COMPANIES MORE AWARE OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO INVEST IN NEW PROJECTS, OFTEN IN CO-OPERATION WITH OVERSEAS COMPANIES, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE, RAISE THE STANDARD OF TECHNOLOGY AND FURTHER DIVERSIFY LOCAL INDUSTRY.

HE ADDED: +WORK ALREADY DONE IN THIS DIRECTION HAS RESULTED IN SOME EXCELLENT JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENTS BUT THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT MORE EMPHASIS NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO IT THAN PRESENT STAFF RESOURCES ALLOW.+

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ACTIVITY APPROACH BEING USED IN 273 PRIMARY CLASSES  
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ABOUT 10,000 PRIMARY PUPILS IN 273 CLASSES IN 38 GOVERNMENT, AIDED AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE ENJOYING THEIR LESSONS MORE AND MORE IN AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE THROUGH THE ACTIVITY APPROACH, A SCHEME LAUNCHED BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1972.

+THE ACTIVITY APPROACH IS GRADUALLY BEING ACCEPTED BY MORE PRIMARY TEACHERS AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING TEACHING IN THE CLASSROOM,+ SAID MRS. RUBY LAU, PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM PLANNING OFFICER (PRIMARY), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER IN THE ACTIVITY APPROACH IS THAT OF A FRIEND HELPING THE PUPILS TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES RATHER THAN A MERE INSTRUCTOR.

TO ENABLE MORE PRIMARY TEACHERS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE BASIC INFORMATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED IN ADOPTING THE SCHEME, THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE IS CONDUCTING FOUR INTRODUCTORY COURSES FOR TEACHERS.

THE FIRST OF THE TWO-DAY COURSES BEGAN TODAY AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE IN TANNER ROAD, NORTH POINT.

+IT IS EXPECTED THAT 240 PRIMARY TEACHERS WILL ATTEND THE FOUR COURSES, THE LAST OF WHICH WILL BE HELD ON MAY 31 AND JUNE 3,+ MRS. LAU SAID.

SHE ADDED: +PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO TEACHERS FROM SCHOOLS INTENDING TO ADOPT THE ACTIVITY APPROACH IN SEPTEMBER 1977.+

APART FROM THESE INTRODUCTORY COURSES, OTHER IN-SERVICE COURSES ON THE ACTIVITY APPROACH ARE HELD DURING THE YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, A COURSE ON +TOPIC WORK+ IS FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS WHO ARE ALREADY USING THE ACTIVITY APPROACH IN CLASS.

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PERMANENT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IN SHA TIN  
ANOTHER CONTRACT SIGNED  
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR THE NEW \$175 MILLION PERMANENT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT \$3.3 MILLION, IS FOR THE SUPPLY OF THREE LARGE AIR BLOWERS AND HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE BRITISH FIRM OF COMPAIR INDUSTRIAL LTD., WHOSE LOCAL AGENT IS HUTCHISON-BOAG ENGINEERING LTD.

THE CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS THIS MORNING BY MR. J.W. BURTON, DIRECTOR OF COMPAIR AND MR. WONG KWOK-CHOY, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE P.W.D.'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE'S CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE NEW SEWAGE PLANT WILL BE BUILT JUST NORTH OF THE NEW RACECOURSE AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN ON 17 HECTARES OF RECLAIMED LAND.

THE STAGE ONE CONSTRUCTION, WHICH IS BEING PARTLY FINANCED BY A \$95 MILLION LOAN FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WILL INVOLVE SETTLING AND AERATION TANKS AND AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

MR. WONG SAID THAT WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, THE PLANT WOULD SERVE THE NEW TOWN'S ENTIRE POPULATION OF SOME 500,000.

THE PLANT'S CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE HAS BEEN GEARED TO KEEP PACE WITH VARIOUS STAGES OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, AND IN FACT IT WILL BE RACING AHEAD OF INITIAL POPULATION INCREASE, HE SAID.

BY THE TIME IT IS COMMISSIONED IN 1980 POPULATION OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN SHOULD BE STANDING AT AROUND 150,000 WHILE THE SEWAGE WORKS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SERVING SOME 230,000 PEOPLE, HE SAID.

THE TREATMENT WORKS WOULD BE ABLE TO TREAT MORE THAN 102,000 CUBIC METRES OF RAW SEWAGE A DAY, SAID MR. WONG.

+THE MAXIMUM SEWAGE FLOW TO THE PLANT FOR FULL TREATMENT WILL BE 3.6 CUBIC METRES PER SECOND -- A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN TREATMENT CAPACITY OVER OUR EXISTING PLANTS.+

THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PERMANENT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY WATSON (HONG KONG) CHARTERED CIVIL ENGINEERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE P.W.D. CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS IN YUEN LONG AND SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 25) TO ALLOW THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CONNECT WATER PIPES THERE.

IN YUEN LONG, THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE THOSE IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN HUNG SHUI KIU AND SAN TIN MARKET, PING HA ROAD AND LAU FAU SHAN ROAD BETWEEN PING SHAN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND LAU FAU SHAN MARKET, TIN SAM ROAD BETWEEN HUNG SHUI KIU AND PING HA ROAD, TAI TONG ROAD BETWEEN YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD AND WONG NAI TUN, INCLUDING YUEN LONG TOWN= KAM TIN ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND PAT HEUNG POLICE STATION, FAN KAM ROAD BETWEEN PAK HEUNG POLICE STATION AND FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL, AND KAM SHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN KAM TIN ROAD AND LIN FA TEI, SHEUNG TSUEN.

IN SHAM SHUI PO, THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED WILL BE THOSE IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL DOCTOR'S QUARTERS AT LAI KING HILL ROAD, LAI KING ESTATE, KAU WAH KENG, KAU WAH KENG SAN TSUEN, LAI YUEN AMUSEMENT PARK, CHUNG SHAN TERRACE AND SITE OF PAUL Y CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AT LAI CHI KOK. AS A RESULT OF THE PIPE CONNECTION WORK, POOR WATER PRESSURE MAY BE EXPERIENCED IN KWAI CHUNG AREA.

ON THE SAME DAY (WEDNESDAY), WATER SUPPLY TO TWO OTHER PARTS OF YUEN LONG WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. TO ALLOW THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

ONE OF THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HOP YICK ROAD AND MAIN NULLAH, INCLUDING TAI KI LING, KONG TAU TSUEN, NGA YIU TAU AND TONG TAU PO.

ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES IN KAM TIN ROAD BETWEEN KAM SHEUNG ROAD AND WING LUNG WAI, INCLUDING KAM SHEUNG ROAD, TSZ TONG TSUEN, KO PO, KAM TSIN WAI, KONG HA WAI, TIN SHAM TSUEN, YUEN KONG TSUEN, YUEN KONG SAN TSUEN, TAI WO, CHEUNG PO, HO PUI, MA ON KONG, SHUI LAU TIN, SHUI TSAN TIN, NGAU KENG TSUEN, LIN FA TEI, SHEUNG TSUEN SHUI LO AND SHEUNG TSUEN.

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