



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JULY 4, 1977

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RAINFALL ONE OF LOWEST IN HK HISTORY  
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HONG KONG'S RAINFALL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF LAST WINTER HAS BEEN 35.6 PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE, MAKING IT THE FOURTH LOWEST EVER, ACCORDING TO A ROYAL OBSERVATORY RAINFALL ANALYSIS RELEASED TODAY.

+FROM 1884 UNTIL NOW, THE AVERAGE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER TO JUNE HAS BEEN 1045.9 MM (41.2 INCHES),+ AN OBSERVATORY SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS YEAR THE RAINFALL FOR THE SAME PERIOD HAS BEEN ONLY 630.4 MM (24.8 INCHES). JUNE'S RAINFALL WAS ITSELF 35 PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE.+

AND FOR THE SECOND MONTH RUNNING, ABNORMAL RAINFALL PATTERNS --- SHORT, LOCALISED SHOWERS INSTEAD OF HONG KONG'S USUAL WIDESPREAD AND PROLONGED SUMMER RAINFALLS -- HAVE ROBBED THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR CATCHMENTS OF MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF MUCH-NEEDED WATER.

MUCH OF THE VITAL RAIN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAY HAS FALLEN SOUTH OF LION ROCK, HITTING THE URBAN AREAS OF KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND AND MISSING THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR OPERATIONAL RESERVOIR, PLOVER COVE.

AND A LARGE PROPORTION OF THAT RAIN WHICH HAS FALLEN IN SHORT, SHARP SHOWERS ON THE CATCHMENT AREAS HAS SIMPLY BEEN SOAKED UP BY THE PARCHED EARTH, WITH VERY LITTLE OF IT EVER GETTING TO THE RESERVOIRS.

THE WATERWORKS CHIEF ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF SUPPLY, MR. WONG KWOK-LAI, SAID THESE WERE THE REASONS THAT THE TOTAL STORAGE IN THE RESERVOIRS FELL FROM 31,488 MILLION GALLONS ON JUNE 1 TO THE JUNE 30 LEVEL OF 29,957 MILLION GALLONS.

+THE LAST TIMES RESERVOIRS STORAGE ACTUALLY FELL IN JUNE WERE IN 1967 AND 1963 -- THE YEARS OF BAD DROUGHTS,+ MR. WONG SAID.

+IN A NORMAL YEAR, RESERVOIR STORAGE INCREASES DURING JUNE AS A RESULT OF THE YIELD FROM SUMMER RAINS.+

LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, STORAGE DURING JUNE ROSE FROM 41,610 MILLION GALLONS TO 52,360 MILLION GALLONS.

IN 1975 IT GREW FROM 61,000 MILLION TO 66,000 MILLION.

EVEN IN 1974 -- THE LAST YEAR IN WHICH WATER RESTRICTIONS WERE IMPOSED -- STORAGE HAD RISEN FROM 35,036 MILLION GALLONS TO 40,253 MILLION GALLONS AT THE END OF JUNE -- 10,000 MILLION GALLONS MORE THAN OUR PRESENT STORAGE.

YET BY WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF THE RAINY REASON IN OCTOBER 1974, LEVELS WERE BACK DOWN TO 32,551 MILLION GALLONS.

/+ONLY .....

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+ONLY TWO FREAK, LATE TYPHOONS SAVED THE DAY,+ SAID MR. WONG.

CONSIDERING OUR PRESENT VERY LOW LEVEL OF STORAGE, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE OF US TO POSTPONE RESTRICTIONS AND RUN THE VERY REAL RISK OF ENTERING THE NEXT DRY PERIOD WITH DANGEROUSLY-DEPLETED RESERVOIRS.

+IN VIEW OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S FORECAST THAT THIS YEAR'S WET SEASON WILL BRING US 10 PER CENT LESS RAIN THAN USUAL, SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE FOOLHARDY.

+WE'VE CERTAINLY HAD A BAD SUMMER SO FAR.+

MR. WONG STRESSED THAT THIS YEAR HONG KONG WAS NOT ONLY FACED WITH A DRY SUMMER, BUT WHAT RAIN IT WAS GETTING WAS NOT DOING MUCH GOOD.

+IT'S A PECULIAR SITUATION -- ALMOST THE REVERSE OF NORMAL RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION,+ HE SAID.

+BECAUSE OF FICKLE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, INSTEAD OF WIDESPREAD STORMS WE'VE BEEN GETTING BRIEF, LOCALISED SHOWERS IN WHICH A LOT OF THE WATER HAS BEEN WASTED IN THE URBAN STREETS OR SOAKED UP BY DRY EARTH IN THE CATCHMENT AREAS.

+ON TOP OF THAT, THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL ITSELF HAS BEEN VERY LOW -- FOR JUNE IT WAS 141 MM (5.5 INCHES) BELOW THE LONG-TERM AVERAGE.+

THE YIELD FROM THIS RAINFALL -- THAT IS THE ACTUAL AMOUNT WHICH REACHED THE RESERVOIRS INSTEAD OF BEING SOAKED UP BY THE EARTH OR RUNNING TO WASTE OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT AREAS -- WAS ONLY 2,367 MILLION GALLONS.

+WE NEEDED AT LEAST 5,000 MILLION GALLONS BEFORE THE END OF LAST MONTH TO BE ABLE TO POSTPONE THE SECOND PHASE OF THE WATER SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS,+ MR. WONG SAID.

THE RECORDS SHOWED THAT RAIN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS HAD FALLEN FOR ONLY BRIEF PERIODS AND AT ISOLATED INTERVALS.

+THE RESULT HAS BEEN THAT MUCH OF THAT RAIN WHICH DID FALL IN THE CATCHMENT AREAS WAS SOAKED UP BY THE DRY EARTH AND DIDN'T RESULT IN ANY YIELD TO THE RESERVOIRS,+ MR. WONG SAID.

+THEN TO MAKE THINGS WORSE THE SUN CAME OUT AGAIN FOR LONG PERIODS AND DRIED UP THE MOISTURE GAINED BY THE EARTH -- SO THAT THE NEXT RAINS WERE AGAIN ABSORBED AND WASTED.

+AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WE SHOULD BE GETTING LONG, WIDESPREAD RAINS WHICH SOAK THE EARTH, SO THAT AFTER RAIN HAS BEEN FALLING FOR SOME TIME WE GET A GOOD YIELD THROUGH SEEPAGE AND RUNOFF TO THE RESERVOIRS.+

/QUOTING .....

QUOTING AN EXAMPLE, MR. WONG SAID RESERVOIR STORAGE FIGURES SHOWED THAT, FOLLOWING OUR DRIEST WINTER ON RECORD, SOME 75 MM (3 INCHES) OF THE INITIAL RAINS OF MAY ADDED VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO THE RESERVOIRS, BECAUSE THEY WERE SOAKED UP BY THE SOIL.

+THIS SOAKING PROCESS MUST REACH FULL SATURATION LEVEL BEFORE EXCESS WATER WILL FLOW OVER THE CATCHMENTS INTO THE RESERVOIRS,+ HE SAID.

+THE FACTS ARE THAT THE FIRST COUPLE OF INCHES OF RAIN FALLING INTO DRY EARTH GIVE VIRTUALLY NO YIELD AT ALL. THE NEXT INCH OR TWO WILL ONLY BEGIN TO PRODUCE WATER YIELD TO THE RESERVOIRS IF THE RAIN HAS BEEN UNINTERRUPTED AND QUITE HEAVY.

+ONLY AFTER AT LEAST 152 MM (6 INCHES) OF ALMOST CONTINUOUS RAIN HAS FALLEN ON THE CATCHMENT AREAS DO WE BEGIN TO GET TO A STAGE WHERE MOST OF THE RAIN IS RUNNING DIRECTLY TO THE RESERVOIRS, SUBSTANTIALLY BOOSTING OUR WATER STORAGE.

+AND IN RECENT MONTHS WE SIMPLY HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MANY STEADY AND PROLONGED DOWNPOURS -- AND CERTAINLY NONE IN THE CATCHMENT AREAS WHERE WE NEED THEM.

+WHAT WE BADLY NEED NOW IS A SERIES OF HEAVY AND PROLONGED TERRITORY-WIDE RAINSTORMS, OR EVEN THE OUTER RAIN BAND OF A PASSING TYPHOON.

MR. WONG SAID THAT FOR THE PAST 24 YEARS, HONG KONG'S RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION PATTERN HAS BEEN ANALYSED FROM RECORDS MADE AT ROYAL OBSERVATORY RAIN GAUGES, NOW TOTALLING 140 AND LOCATED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

THIS NETWORK OF GAUGES IS READ EACH DAY BY OBSERVATORY PERSONNEL, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ENGINEERS AND AN ARMY OF POLICEMEN, SCHOOL CHILDREN AND OTHER PUBLIC VOLUNTEERS.

+ALL RECORDS THIS YEAR SHOW THE SAME THING -- AN ABNORMAL RAIN PATTERN,+ SAID MR. WONG.

+OF THE RAINFALL FOR JUNE, FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY 74 PER CENT FELL OVER THE ENTIRE CATCHMENT AREAS, WITH SOME RESERVOIRS, LIKE SHEK PIK, RECEIVING ONLY 55 PER CENT.+

HONG KONG'S +GROUND WATER LEVEL+ -- WHICH INDICATES THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL WHICH WILL STILL BE ABSORBED BY THE SOIL AND THEREFORE WASTED -- IS CHECKED AT A NUMBER OF OBSERVATION WELLS ON THE HIGH ISLAND AND OTHER CATCHMENT AREAS, AND FROM REPORTS BY PRIVATE WELL OWNERS ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE LEVEL ROSE SLIGHTLY DURING JUNE, BUT MR. WONG WARNED IT WAS STILL VERY LOW FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, AND THAT ABSORPTION OF RAINFALL BY THE SOIL IS STILL EXPECTED TO BE HIGH.

+UNTIL THE MOISTURE CONTENT IN THE SOIL REACHES ITS NORMAL LEVEL, THE CATCHMENTS WILL STILL NOT GET THE FULL BENEFIT OF RAINS,+ HE SAID.

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 WATER RESTRICTIONS SECOND PHASE FROM TOMORROW  
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THE SECOND PHASE OF HONG KONG'S WATER RESTRICTIONS WILL COME INTO FORCE TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE TEN-HOUR SUPPLY WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN A FOUR-HOUR MORNING PERIOD AND A SIX-HOUR EVENING PERIOD.

IN THE MORNING, THE HOURS OF SUPPLY WILL BE FROM 6 A.M. TO 10 A.M. WHILE THE EVENING SUPPLY PERIOD WILL BE FROM 4 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

ANNOUNCING THIS LAST WEEK, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, SAID THAT TO HAVE FURTHER POSTPONED THE PHASE II RESTRICTIONS THE WATER STORAGE WOULD HAVE HAD TO REACH 35,000 MILLION GALLONS.

AT 9 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING, THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 30,192 MILLION GALLONS OR 44.8 PER CENT OF THEIR TOTAL CAPACITY.

AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR, STORAGE WAS 52,328 MILLION GALLONS OR 77.7 PER CENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY.

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BUILD-UP OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN NEW TOWN  
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THE BUILDING OF THE THREE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS REACHED A NEW STAGE - WITH GREATER EMPHASIS NOW BEING PLACED ON PROVIDING COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY THAT IN THE PAST ALMOST THE ENTIRE DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS HAD BEEN ON HOMES AND WORK.

+NOW WE CAN SEE SECONDARY SCHOOLS BEING CONSTRUCTED ALONGSIDE THE HOUSING ESTATES, TOGETHER WITH POLICE, FIRE STATIONS, POLYCLINICS AND SO ON,+ HE SAID.

+BROADLY SPEAKING, THE AIM IS TO KEEP IN PROPER BALANCE THE PROVISION OF THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WELL-BEING AND CONTENTMENT OF THESE COMMUNITIES.

+HOPEFULLY, LACK OF SCHOOLS AND QUEUES AT POLYCLINICS WILL NOT OCCUR IN OUR NEW TOWNS.

+WE MAY NOT GET PROVISION ENTIRELY IN BALANCE BUT IT WILL NOT BE BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT TRIED.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE SAID HE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE DISRUPTION AND DISTURBANCE THIS BROUGHT TO EXISTING COMMUNITIES. +THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN LEGITIMATELY TO CUSHION THE EFFECTS OF THIS DISTURBANCE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT WE MUST NOT FORGET THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS TO PROVIDE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE.+

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SURVEY ON NEEDS FOR TRADE INSTRUCTORS  
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A SURVEY ON THE MANPOWER NEEDS FOR INSTRUCTORS IN MAJOR INDUSTRIES, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT LATER THIS MONTH.

THIS IS THE SECOND SURVEY IN THE SERIES TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTOR TRAINING OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT. IT AIMS TO UP-DATE THE INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THE PREVIOUS SURVEY AND TO ASCERTAIN, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, THE EXISTING NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS EMPLOYED, THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES AND A FORECAST OF ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

DURING THE SURVEY, FROM JULY 18 TO 30, AN OFFICER WILL VISIT SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO COLLECT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE, ANSWER ANY QUERIES AND ASSIST IN FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE, IF NECESSARY.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL SAID:  
+EMPLOYERS CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTOR TRAINING HOPED THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD CO-OPERATE AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION WHICH IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN HELPING TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS TO MEET THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S EXPANDING ECONOMY.

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FIRING PRACTICE  
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) FOR FOUR DAYS UNTIL FRIDAY (JULY 8).

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE :

| <u>DATE</u>        | <u>HOURS</u>     |
|--------------------|------------------|
| JULY 5 (TUESDAY)   | 8 A.M. - 11 P.M. |
| JULY 6 (WEDNESDAY) | 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.  |
| JULY 7 (THURSDAY)  | 8 A.M. - 11 P.M. |
| JULY 8 (FRIDAY)    | 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.  |

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BANKING STATISTICS FOR MAY  
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BANKING DEPOSITS AT THE END OF MAY 1977 STOOD AT \$47,041 MILLION, COMPRISING \$11,116 MILLION IN DEMAND DEPOSITS, \$18,211 MILLION IN TIME DEPOSITS AND \$17,714 MILLION IN SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

THERE WERE 74 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF MAY.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES RELEASED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TODAY GIVE A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF BANK LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AND MONEY SUPPLY FOR THE MONTH :-

|                    |                                  |        | \$MILLION |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| <u>LIABILITIES</u> |                                  |        |           |
| 1.                 | DEPOSITS                         |        | 47,041    |
| 2.                 | AMOUNT DUE TO BANKS ABROAD       |        | 32,456    |
| 3.                 | OTHER LIABILITIES                |        | 8,963     |
|                    |                                  |        | -----     |
|                    | TOTAL LIABILITIES                |        | 88,460    |
|                    |                                  |        | -----     |
| <u>ASSETS</u>      |                                  |        |           |
| 1.                 | CASH                             |        | 922       |
| 2.                 | AMOUNT DUE FROM BANKS ABROAD :   |        |           |
|                    | (I) DEMAND AND SHORT TERM CLAIMS | 25,587 |           |
|                    | (II) TIME DEPOSITS               | 4,726  | 30,313    |
|                    |                                  | -----  |           |
| 3.                 | LOANS AND ADVANCES :             |        |           |
|                    | (I) HONG KONG                    | 32,565 |           |
|                    | (II) ABROAD                      | 16,320 | 48,885    |
|                    |                                  | -----  |           |
| 4.                 | INVESTMENTS :                    |        |           |
|                    | (I) HONG KONG                    | 3,351  |           |
|                    | (II) ABROAD                      | 64     | 3,415     |
|                    |                                  | -----  |           |
|                    | /5. OTHER .....                  |        |           |

## 5. OTHER ASSETS :

|               |                   |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (I) HONG KONG | 4,117             |                   |
| (II) ABROAD   | 808               | 4,925             |
|               | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

|              |  |                   |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS |  | 88,460            |
|              |  | <u>          </u> |

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| AVERAGE LIQUIDITY DURING MONTH | 43.72 PERCENT |
|--------------------------------|---------------|

MONEY SUPPLYMONTH ENDED  
MAY 31, 1977\$MILLION

|   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN CIRCULATION (A)                          |                   |                   |
| (I) COMMERCIAL BANK ISSUES  | 5,093             |                   |
| (II) GOVERNMENT ISSUES  | 495               | 5,588             |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
| 2. LICENSED BANKS' HOLDINGS OF LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES (B)             |                   | 922               |
| 3. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN HANDS OF NON-BANK PUBLIC (A) - (B) = (C) |                   | 4,666             |
| 4. DEMAND DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (D)                                  |                   | 11,116            |
| 5. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 1) (C) + (D) = (E)                              |                   | 15,782            |
| 6. TIME DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (F)                                    |                   | 18,211            |
| 7. SAVINGS DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (G)                                 |                   | 17,714            |
| 8. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 2) (E) + (F) + (G) = (H)                        |                   | 51,707            |

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+MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. T.G. GARNER, TO MEET THE MEDIA AT 3 P.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 7).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

TELEVISION CREWS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT MOBILE OFFICE CHANGES ADDRESS  
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S MOBILE OFFICE WILL NOW OPERATE EVERY FRIDAY STARTING JULY 8, AT THE TAI PO REGISTRATION OF PERSONS SUB-OFFICE NOS. 89-91, WAN TAU STREET, GROUND FLOOR, TAI PO.

THE MOBILE OFFICE WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M. TO 3.45 P.M.

PREVIOUSLY, THE MOBILE OFFICE OPERATED AT THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE.

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