



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1975

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NUMBER OF RICE IMPORTERS TO BE INCREASED

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THE NUMBER OF RICE IMPORTERS IS TO BE INCREASED.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, SAID THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE MOVE.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 38 REGISTERED IMPORTERS OF RICE. MODIFICATION OF THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME - SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1976 - WILL ALLOW THE NUMBER TO BE INCREASED TO A MAXIMUM OF 45.

+WE BELIEVE THAT CONSUMERS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ADDITION OF A REASONABLE NUMBER OF NEWCOMERS WITH BUSINESS EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE+, MR. MCGREGOR SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION TO REGISTER ADDITIONAL IMPORTERS OF RICE WAS MADE ON THE ADVICE OF THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD AND ITS RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ADDING THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD MADE A SIMILAR SUGGESTION LAST YEAR.

MR. MCGREGOR POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE LIMITING FACTORS IN DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF NEWCOMERS TO THE TRADE. +WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE EXISTING PATTERN OF TRADE IS NOT DISRUPTED AND THAT EACH REGISTERED IMPORTER WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT BUSINESS TO MAKE IMPORTING OF RICE A VIABLE PROPOSITION.

+TRADE EXPERIENCE AND STABILITY ARE VITAL FACTORS IN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST+ MR. MCGREGOR SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME WAS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL REVIEW BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO RESULT IN ANY FURTHER CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF IMPORTERS FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. +WE MUST CONTINUE, THEREFORE, TO OPERATE THE SCHEME IN A WAY THAT WOULD ENSURE A STEADY SUPPLY OF RICE AND COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR SALES+.

THOSE WHO WISH TO BECOME RICE IMPORTERS MUST COMPLETE CERTAIN FORMS GIVING DETAILS OF THEIR COMPANIES TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT. THESE FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT. THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED PREVIOUSLY ARE ELIGIBLE TO DO SO AGAIN PROVIDED THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA :

- (A) THE APPLICANT FIRM MUST BE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG WITH THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION OFFICE=
- (B) IT MUST HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS=

/(C) IT MUST

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- (C) IT MUST HAVE CAPITAL OF NOT LESS THAN HK\$ 1 MILLION=
- (D) IT MUST HAVE HAD AN ANNUAL TURNOVER OF BUSINESS OF NOT LESS THAN HK\$ 3 MILLION FOR THE THREE YEARS PRIOR TO APPLICATIONS=
- (E) IT MUST HAVE BANK CREDITS OF NOT LESS THAN HK\$ 3 MILLION FOR TRADING IN RICE=
- (F) NOT LESS THAN 51 PER CENT OF THE CAPITAL OF THE FIRM MUST BE OWNED BY PERSONS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG=
- (G) A MAJORITY OF PARTNERS OR DIRECTORS OF THE FIRM MUST BE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG= AND
- (H) NONE OF THE OWNERS, PARTNERS OR DIRECTORS OF THE FIRM MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL INTEREST OR HOLD ANY OFFICE IN A RICE IMPORTING FIRM AT PRESENT REGISTERED WITH THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT THE BASIC OBJECTIVE WAS TO EXPAND THE SCOPE FOR COMPETITION IN THE RICE TRADE AND, BY DOING SO, FURTHER PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE HONG KONG CONSUMER. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY BUSINESS CONCERNS WHICH ARE LOCALLY OWNED AND WHICH HAVE SUBSTANTIAL TRADING EXPERIENCE AND FINANCIAL BACKING WILL BE CONSIDERED.

A BALLOT WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL TO SELECT THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS. THE BALLOT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD IF THERE IS A LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WHO QUALIFY FOR REGISTRATION.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT : MR. H.P. LEE 5-241805, MR. S.K.S. CHAN 5-450965.

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MORE RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS
EXPECTED THIS SUMMER

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTION AGAINST HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE MORE FREQUENT THIS SUMMER.

ACCORDING TO A LONG-RANGED WEATHER FORECAST BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE RAINFALL THIS YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 15 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL AVERAGE.

THUNDERSTORMS, NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH HEAVY RAIN, ARE ALSO LIKELY TO OCCUR MORE OFTEN DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

IN HONG KONG, AN AVERAGE OF NINE THUNDERSTORMS OCCURS EVERY MONTH BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER. IN MAY THIS YEAR, THE FREQUENT HEAVY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS NECESSITATED THE ISSUING OF THE THUNDERSTORM AND HEAVY RAIN WARNING ON 19 DAYS OF THE MONTH.

IN VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS OF MORE RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC OF THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES THEY SHOULD TAKE TO SAFEGUARD THEMSELVES AGAINST ANY DAMAGE DURING A THUNDERSTORM WHERE LIGHTNING IS LIKELY TO OCCUR.

THE POINTERS HANDED OUT BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ARE:

- * STAY INDOORS, DON'T VENTURE OUTSIDE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
- * KEEP AWAY FROM TREES OR POLES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING
- * DON'T SWIM
- * DON'T TOUCH AERIALS, WATER PIPES, WIRE FENCES OR OTHER METAL INSTALLATIONS
- * DON'T HANDLE INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS IN OPEN CONTAINERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A WARNING WILL BE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AS SOON AS IT IS EXPECTED THAT A THUNDERSTORM OR HEAVY RAIN IS TO OCCUR IN ANY PART OF HONG KONG.

THE WARNING WILL BE BROADCAST BY RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS. IT WILL ALSO BE PASSED BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY, FOR AN ANNUAL CHARGE, DIRECTLY TO THOSE WHO NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE WARNING WILL NOT BE ISSUED WHEN A TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNAL IS HOISTED.+

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID,+PRECAUTION AGAINST HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORM SHOULD NOT BE LAX DURING THE HOISTING OF A TROPICAL STORM SIGNAL.+

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119 REDUNDANT TEACHERS REGISTER WITH PLACEMENT OFFICE

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MORE THAN HALF OF THE 206 REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

78 TURNED UP YESTERDAY AND 41 TODAY. EACH WAS INTERVIEWED FOR 10 TO 15 MINUTES.

THE OFFICE IS MANNED DURING THE LUNCH HOUR AND THREE WENT TO REGISTER AT THAT TIME TODAY. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE TO BE SERVED DURING THE LUNCH BREAK.

MR. DAVID LEUNG, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE PLACEMENT SERVICE, SAID HE WAS RECEIVING VERY GOOD CO-OPERATION FROM THE TEACHERS CONCERNED AND THE SCHOOLS.

+THE SERVICE IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN HELPING ALL THE ELIGIBLE REDUNDANT TEACHERS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE POSTS IN OTHER AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE THERE ARE VACANCIES,+ HE SAID.

LAST FRIDAY, FORMS WERE SENT TO SUPERVISORS OF AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHERE THERE WILL BE TEACHING VACANCIES IN SEPTEMBER. THE SUPERVISORS WERE ASKED TO GIVE PARTICULARS OF THE TEACHING VACANCIES IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

+ALREADY SOME OF THESE FORMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO MY OFFICE,+ MR. LEUNG SAID.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY), MR. LAM TAT-LAU, VISITED THE PLACEMENT SERVICE'S OFFICE TODAY AND WATCHED SOME OF THE REDUNDANT TEACHERS BEING INTERVIEWED.

MR. LAM SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOLS WERE CO-OPERATING ENTHUSIASTICALLY WITH THE SERVICE.

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SEND YOUR TAX ENQUIRY BY POST, URGES I.R.D.

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY URGED TAXPAYERS TO MAKE ENQUIRIES BY LETTER, RATHER THAN BY TELEPHONE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

AN IRD SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN FLOODED WITH ENQUIRIES FROM TAXPAYERS ABOUT THEIR TAX OBLIGATIONS WITH THE RESULT THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONE EXCHANGES HAD BECOME HEAVILY OVERLOADED, CAUSING DELAYS AND INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS WITH MORE PRESSING MATTERS.

ARRANGEMENTS WERE IN HAND TO IMPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONE FACILITIES, HE SAID, BUT THIS WOULD TAKE TIME. IN THE MEANTIME, TAXPAYERS COULD HELP EASE THE PRESSURE BY SENDING THEIR NOT-SO-URGENT ENQUIRIES BY POST.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING REMINDERS TO THOSE WHO HAD NOT YET SUBMITTED THEIR 1975/76 TAX RETURN. BECAUSE OF THE VAST VOLUME OF WORK INVOLVED, IT MAY BE THAT A PERSON WHO HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED HIS RETURNS MIGHT RECEIVE A REMINDER.

WHERE TAXPAYERS RECEIVE REMINDERS WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY SUBMITTED THEIR SALARIES TAX RETURN, HE SAID, MAY ASSUME THAT NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED OF THEM UNLESS OR UNTIL THEY RECEIVE A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT WATCH FACTORY

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

LADY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT THE CHIAP HUA CLOCKS AND WATCHES FACTORY IN KWUN TONG TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SHE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. K.H. YEUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE FACTORY, LADY MACLEHOSE WILL BE MET BY MR. Y.C. CHENG, THE CHAIRMAN= MR. H.S. CHENG, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR= MR. K.K. LEE, THE WORKS MANAGER AND MR. J. YUNG, THE SALES MANAGER.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. CHIAP HUA CLOCKS AND WATCHES LTD. IS LOCATED AT 396, KWUN TONG ROAD, KOWLOON. LADY MACLEHOSE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE AT 10.30 A.M.

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AWARDS FOR C.A.S. CADETS
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A TOTAL OF 89 CADETS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL RECEIVE VARIOUS AWARDS ON FRIDAY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.

OF THESE, 40 WILL RECEIVE THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME SILVER AND BRONZE AWARDS FROM MR. HU FAT-KWONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME.

ANOTHER 14 CADETS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE MECHANICAL/AUTOMOBILE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING COURSE CERTIFICATES BY MR. E.M. LAISHLEY, ENGINEER (TRAINING) OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL OFFICE, P.W.D.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH, MR. KWOK HON-MING WILL PRESENT THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING BRONZE MEDALLIONS TO 35 OTHER CADETS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF C.A.S., MR. P.C. WOO WILL WIND UP THE CEREMONY WITH THE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO WINNERS OF THE C.A.S. CADET ANNUAL CAMPING COMPETITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL IN THE MARINER'S CLUB, MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 7 PM ON FRIDAY.

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WATER CUT
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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR A FEW HOURS ON FRIDAY (JUNE 20) WHEN A TEST FOR LEAKAGE WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, HENG LAM STREET, FU MEI STREET, INCLUDING THE JUNCTION ROAD RESITE AREA AND LOK FU ESTATE BLOCKS 1-12. THE STOPPAGE WILL LAST FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM.

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SPEEDPOST CHARGES TO U.S.A. REDUCED
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CHARGES FOR THE SPEEDPOST SERVICES TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE REDUCED FROM JULY 1 FOLLOWING A RE-ASSESSMENT OF THEIR DEMAND AND COSTINGS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THE CHARGE FOR THE FIRST POUND IN THE CONTRACT SERVICE WILL BE REDUCED FROM \$120 TO \$100 AND THE CHARGE FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT POUND WILL BE LOWERED FROM \$20 TO \$15.

FOR THE 'ON DEMAND' SERVICE, THE CHARGE WILL BE LOWERED FROM \$130 TO \$120 FOR THE FIRST POUND AND FROM \$20 TO \$15 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT POUND.

SPEEDPOST IS A SERVICE DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR THE RAPID AND RELIABLE TRANSMISSION OF BUSINESS DOCUMENTS AND COMMERCIAL PAPERS.

UNDER THIS SERVICE, ITEMS COLLECTED BY THE POST OFFICE FROM A CONTRACT CUSTOMER ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN 40 HOURS TO ANY OF 404 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN ADDITION TO THE CONTRACT SPEEDPOST, AN 'ON DEMAND' SERVICE IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO 179 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR CUSTOMERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR NEED FOR SPEEDPOST SERVICE.

ITEMS COLLECTED IN THE 'ON DEMAND' SERVICE RECEIVE THE SAME EXPEDITIOUS AND RELIABLE TREATMENT AS CONTRACT ITEMS.

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SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES TO MEET THE MEDIA
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A +MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JUNE 19) AT 4 P.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. LI FOOK-KOW.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE MEETING COVERED. TELEVISION CREWS ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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GIS OUTLET FOR WIDE RANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

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THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT HAVE RECENTLY ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT BY WHICH THE GIS ACTS AS THE SOLE AGENT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OECD'S WIDE RANGE OF PUBLICATIONS.

THIS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MEANS THE AVAILABILITY IN HONG KONG OF NUMEROUS BOOKS AND BOOKLETS PRODUCED BY THE OECD WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY HARD TO COME BY HERE.

THE RANGE OF SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE OECD INCLUDE PUBLICATIONS ON ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AID, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, FISHERIES, ENERGY, MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM, AND SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

A SELECTION OF OECD PUBLICATIONS IS PRESENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, HONG KONG ISLAND.

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED AT THE CENTRE, AND ALSO AT THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF THE GIS AT 1A GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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HEPATITIS CASES DROP

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THERE HAS BEEN A GRADUAL DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF VIRAL HEPATITIS CASES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF JUNE.

A TOTAL OF 51 CASES WERE NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK, COMPARED WITH 61 IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE AND 80 IN THE LAST WEEK OF MAY.

NO DEATHS CAUSED BY THE DISEASE WERE REPORTED IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE. THERE WERE FIVE DEATHS IN MAY.

THE NUMBER OF VIRAL HEPATITIS NOTIFICATIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR TOTALLED 1,086 WITH 18 DEATHS.

AS REGARDS AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES NOTIFIED SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE HIGHEST NUMBER WAS RECORDED IN THE 20-24 AGE GROUP, ACCOUNTING FOR 22 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CASES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE, WHICH IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

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