



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1974.

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DON'T WASTE WATER

THE COMMUNITY WAS TODAY URGED TO ECONOMISE ON WATER CONSUMPTION AS HONG KONG APPROACHES THE DRY SEASON WITH THE WATER LEVELS IN THE RESERVOIRS AT THEIR LOWEST POINT IN FOUR YEARS.

WHILE THERE IS STILL HOPE THAT THE SITUATION MIGHT EASE IN THE REMAINING MONTHS OF THE CURRENT WET SEASON, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILLIAM KNIGHT, EMPHASISED THAT EVERY CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN NOW TO AVOID WASTE OF PRESENT SUPPLIES.

HE WARNED THAT +IF WE DON'T GET ANY SUBSTANTIAL FALLS IN THIS PERIOD, THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH WATER TO SEE US THROUGH TO THE NEXT RAINY SEASON. QUITE RIGHTLY, ANY DECISION TO RESTRICT SUPPLY HAS TO BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.+

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR. KNIGHT SAID THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS OF ABUNDANT RAIN THE SITUATION HAD REVERSED DRAMATICALLY WITH RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS THIS YEAR DROPPING BY 28 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL AVERAGE.

THE SITUATION MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THE PRESENT STORAGE OF 39,000 MILLION GALLONS WAS ONLY ABOUT 58 PER CENT OF OUR FULL CAPACITY OF 67,000 MILLION GALLONS.

MR. KNIGHT CITED TWO SIMPLE WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY COULD HELP AVOID WASTE: FIRST, DO NOT LEAVE TAPS RUNNING, AND SECOND, TAKE A SHOWER INSTEAD OF A BATH AS LESS WATER IS USED THIS WAY.

+SOME INDUSTRIES COULD ALSO DO THEIR PART BY VOLUNTARILY RESTRICTING OR RE-USING PART OF SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO WATER SUPPLIES FROM CHINA, WHICH NOW AMOUNT TO 18,500 MILLION GALLONS A YEAR, MR. KNIGHT EMPHASISED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT THERE IS AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF CHINA WATER TO BE TAPPED ON DEMAND.

+I HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO GET MORE WATER FROM CHINA, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DELIVERY SYSTEM ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR ANY DRAMATIC INCREASE TO BE MADE QUICKLY WITHOUT EXCESSIVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

IN THE ABSENCE OF TRADITIONAL FRESH WATER SOURCES SUCH AS LAKES AND RIVERS, HONG KONG'S MAIN SOURCE FOR WATER HAS ALWAYS BEEN RAINFALL WHICH IS LARGELY CONFINED TO A SINGLE SEASON STRETCHING FROM MAY TO OCTOBER.

/THE TASK

THE TASK HAS THEREFORE BEEN TO CATCH THIS WATER AND STORE IT, AND THROUGH THE YEARS HONG KONG'S STORAGE CAPACITY HAD GONE UP FROM 66 MILLION GALLONS IN 1877 TO 6,000 MILLION GALLONS IN 1936, THEN TO 16,000 MILLION GALLONS IN 1963, AND TO 67,000 MILLION GALLONS IN 1973.

BY 1979, THE TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY SHOULD REACH 128,000 MILLION GALLONS WHEN THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME IS COMPLETED.

MR. KNIGHT SAID THAT, IN FACT, THE PRESENT SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SERIOUS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE FORESIGHT IN PLANNING. IN PARTICULAR, THE PLOVER COVE EXTENSION WAS FINISHED IN TIME TO BENEFIT FROM AUGUST RAINS, GIVING US A VITAL EXTRA 13,000 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

HOWEVER, WITH THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME HONG KONG HAD REACHED THE END OF THE ROAD AS FAR AS BUILDING MORE CONVENTIONAL RESERVOIRS WAS CONCERNED AS THERE WERE NO MORE CATCHMENT AREAS AND ADEQUATE LAND LEFT.

BUT THIS TOO HAD BEEN FORESEEN AND SERIOUS PLANNING ON OBTAINING FRESH WATER FROM THE SEA BEGAN AS FAR BACK AS 1963. EARLY NEXT YEAR THE FIRST SIX UNITS OF THE DESALTER PLANT WILL COME INTO OPERATION AND, ALTHOUGH THE DESALTED WATER WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BECAUSE OF INCREASED COSTS, IT WILL STILL BE ESSENTIAL TO OUR SUPPLIES.

THE PLANT, WHEN FULLY COMPLETED, WILL PRODUCE 40 MILLION GALLONS OF FRESH WATER A DAY AND WILL BE IMPORTANT IN TWO RESPECTS, SAID MR. KNIGHT.

+IN THE SHORT TERM, IT IS NEEDED URGENTLY TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TODAY'S RESOURCES AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF YIELD FROM HIGH ISLAND. IN THE LONG TERM IT IS THE START OF A PROCESS OF DESALTER BUILDING WHICH COULD EXTEND LONG INTO THE FUTURE AND ON WHICH HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND FOR FURTHER MAJOR EXTENSIONS TO SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

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THREE NEW C.D.O'S APPOINTED

THREE NEW CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED.

THEY ARE MR. BILLY LAM CHUNG-LUN, CDO, KOWLOON CITY= MR. NICHOLAS NG WING-FUI, CDO, WESTERN= AND MR. CANICE MAK CHUN-FONG, CDO, MONG KOK.

THEY REPLACE MR. ANTHONY WOO SIK-JAN OF WESTERN AND MR. LEO KWAN WING-WAH OF MONG KOK, BOTH OF WHOM ARE LEAVING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR TRAINING, AND MR. MICHAEL SZE CHO-CHEUNG OF KOWLOON CITY WHO BECOMES CDO FOR KWUNG TONG.

THE THREE NEW CDO'S WERE GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MR. LAM, 26, JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN NOVEMBER 1970 AND WAS POSTED TO THE FORMER RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT FOR A TOTAL OF NEARLY THREE YEARS. HE WAS THEN POSTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

MR. NG, 27, BEGAN HIS CIVIL SERVICE AS AN ASSIGNMENT OFFICER (TRAINING) IN JUNE 1970. FOUR MONTHS LATER, HE JOINED THE EXECUTIVE GRADE AND WORKED IN THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT UNTIL AUGUST 1971 WHEN HE BECAME AS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. HE THEN SERVED IN THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THREE YEARS AS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

MR. MAK, 26, HAS HAD FOUR YEARS OF WORKING EXPERIENCE WITH THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, THE FORMER HOUSING DIVISION OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT. PRIOR TO HIS NEW APPOINTMENT HE WAS WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. GUS CHUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND THE THREE NEWLY APPOINTED CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT +MEET THE MEDIA+ SESSION TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 4) AT 3 P.M. IN THE 35 MM THEATRE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO ATTEND.

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KOWLOON BAY SQUATTERS MOVE TO KWAI CHUNG

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ALL 150 SQUATTERS OF THE KOWLOON BAY AREA WHO WERE MADE HOMELESS BY THE FIRE ON AUGUST 21 HAVE TAKEN UP SITES AT SHEK YAM LICENSED AREA, IN KWAI CHUNG, WHERE THEY WILL REBUILD THEIR HOMES.

ANOTHER 200 SQUATTERS LIVING IN NEARBY ILLEGAL HUTS WHICH ARE DUE TO BE CLEARED SHORTLY HAVE ALSO ACCEPTED THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S OFFER AND ARE PUTTING UP NEW HUTS THERE.

MORE SQUATTERS WILL BE GETTING SITES AT THE LICENSED AREA AS THE SITE ALLOCATION EXERCISE PROCEEDS.

THE SHEK YAM LICENSED AREA WAS BUILT AT A COST OF \$560,000. ANOTHER \$450,000 WILL BE SPENT TO PROVIDE WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES TO THE OCCUPANTS.

THE LICENSED AREA IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH IS STILL UNOCCUPIED AND CAN TAKE IN ABOUT 4,000 PEOPLE.

SOME SQUATTERS AT KOWLOON BAY HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF UNWILLINGNESS TO MOVE THERE CLAIMING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN KOWLOON BAY FOR YEARS AND THAT IT WAS UNFAIR FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO SHIFT THEM TO SUCH A REMOTE AREA.

IN REFUTING THEIR CLAIMS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SAID THAT MOST OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON BAY HAD ONLY BEEN PUT UP RECENTLY AND THE MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE -- MANY OF WHOM ARRIVED FROM CHINA ONLY RECENTLY -- HAD TAKEN UP RESIDENCE THERE FOR JUST TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MOST OF THESE PEOPLE HAD BOUGHT THE HUTS FROM RACKETEERS IN THE HOPE OF GETTING PUBLIC HOUSING BY JUMPING THE LONG QUEUE OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR SUCH HOUSING.

+APART FROM THIS, SHEK YAM IS THE ONLY LICENSED AREA AVAILABLE AT PRESENT TO CATER FOR THE 1,150 SQUATTERS OF THE KOWLOON BAY AREA.

+THE LIMITED SITES STILL AVAILABLE AT KOWLOON BAY LICENSED AREA STAGE ONE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE NUMBER OF SQUATTERS AND MOREOVER THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED FOR OTHER SCHEDULED CLEARANCES. NEW LICENSED AREA SITES ON THE RECLAMATION WILL NOT BE READY UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THEREFORE THE SQUATTERS' REQUEST FOR SITES IN KOWLOON BAY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.+

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THE BLIND ARE NOT A BURDEN ON SOCIETY

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EFFORTS OF SOCIAL WORKERS ALONE CANNOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLIND. PUBLIC SUPPORT IS NEEDED AS WELL.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY MR. JOSEPH HO, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S JOB PLACEMENT OFFICER FOR THE BLIND, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AND FILM SHOW ARRANGED BY THE HONG KONG JUNIOR CHAMBER, PENINSULA CHAPTER, TO ANNOUNCE A FORTH-COMING EXHIBITION ON BLIND WELFARE WORK.

MR. HO SAID SOCIAL WORKERS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSISTING THE BLIND TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT, BUT THE PUBLIC TOO HAD AN EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING.

THE BLIND SHOULD NOT JUST BE REGARDED AS A BURDEN ON SOCIETY, HE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION IN WHICH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PARTICIPATING TO SHOW EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS OF THE BLIND, AIMS AT HELPING THE PUBLIC TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THE BLIND AND HOPEFULLY OPEN UP MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) 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) MODE
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	---	---
CHU CHO	---	---
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.75
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
U.S. RICE	---	---
AUSTRALIAN RICE	GOOD	1.74
PAKISTAN RICE	---	---
TAIWAN RICE	---	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 320 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.40	1.80	3.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.70	1.00	1.80
SQUID	GOOD	3.20	1.20	2.20
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.80	0.70	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	4.00	0.60	2.30
CROAKERS	SCARCE	3.20	0.80	2.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.00	1.20	1.60
MELON COAT	SCARCE	2.50	1.20	1.80
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.50	3.50	4.50
YELLOW BELLY	LIMITED	1.70	0.60	1.10
MACKERELS	SCARCE	6.00	2.50	4.20
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	1.20	0.60	0.90
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.00	0.50	0.70
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	5.70	3.50	4.60
MELON SEED	NORMAL	1.80	1.20	1.50
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.20	6.50	7.30
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	11.00	6.50	8.70
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	5.50	2.80	4.00

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	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.00	0.50	1.40
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.40	1.20
SPINACH	---	---	---	---
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.20	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.45
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.45
TOMATO	SCARCE	5.20	2.50	4.00