



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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HONG KONG STRENGTHENS REPRESENTATION IN E.E.C.
MR. CLAUDE BURGESS NAMED MINISTER FOR HK COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN
BRUSSELS
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HONG KONG IS TO INCREASE ITS REPRESENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WITH THE CREATION OF A NEW POST OF MINISTER FOR HONG KONG COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN BRUSSELS, THE SEAT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, SAID THAT THE NEW POST WILL BE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. +THE POST+, HE SAID, +HAS BEEN CREATED BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR HONG KONG. THE EEC IS NOW HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, TAKING SOME 30 PER CENT OF OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS.+

MR. CLAUDE BURGESS, A FORMER COLONIAL SECRETARY, HAS ACCEPTED THE APPOINTMENT AND WILL TAKE UP HIS DUTIES SHORTLY. MR. BURGESS SERVED IN HONG KONG FOR 30 YEARS. AFTER HE RETIRED, HE TOOK UP A SENIOR POST IN THE SECRETARIAT OF EFTA (THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION) AND HE REPRESENTED EFTA IN BRUSSELS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR BRITISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY.

SINCE 1968 HONG KONG HAS BEEN REPRESENTED IN BRUSSELS AT COUNSELLOR LEVEL BY MR. PAT DODGE.

+HOWEVER,+ SAID MR. JORDAN, +DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE EEC IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, ESPECIALLY THE INCREASED COMPLEXITY AND VOLUME OF WORK WHICH HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY BY THE ACCESSION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, DENMARK AND IRELAND, LED THE GOVERNMENT TO RE-EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATION AND TO CONCLUDE THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR MR. DODGE ALONE TO COVER THE MANY ASPECTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

+I BELIEVE THAT MR. BURGESS AND MR. DODGE WILL FORM A STRONG TEAM TO LOOK AFTER HONG KONG'S INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY.+

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SHOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED HONG KONG PEOPLE IN EUROPE TO COMPLEMENT THE EFFORTS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS MAKING ON OUR BEHALF.

/+AMONG THE

+AMONG THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT MR. BURGESS AND MR. DODGE WILL BE TACKLING,+ HE SAID, +ARE THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILE EXPORT RESTRAINTS TO THE NINE MEMBER STATES AND HONG KONG'S FUTURE STATUS IN THE EEC'S GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES. MR. DODGE HAS JUST COMPLETED A TOUR OF MEMBER STATE CAPITALS AND PUT ACROSS HONG KONG'S CASE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE PRESENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OUR TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR IN THIS SCHEME.+

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR EDITORS:

A. - THE POST

IN THE UK DIPLOMATIC SERVICE THE HIERARCHY IN AN EMBASSY IS NORMALLY, IN ORDER OF SENIORITY: AMBASSADOR, MINISTER, COUNSELLOR, FIRST SECRETARY AND SECOND SECRETARY. MESSRS. BURGESS AND DODGE ARE NOMINALLY ON THE STAFF OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM. MR. BURGESS' POST OF MINISTER IS THEREFORE ONE RANK BELOW THE AMBASSADOR, AND ONE HIGHER THAN THAT HELD BY MR. DODGE.

B. - BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON MR. BURGESS

BORN FEBRUARY 25, 1910.

EDUCATED EPWORTH COLLEGE AND CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

APPOINTED CADET OFFICER, HONG KONG, 1932

SECONDED TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE 1946-48

ATTENDED IMPERIAL DEFENCE COLLEGE 1951

DEFENCE SECRETARY 1952-53

DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY 1953-58

O.B.E. 1954

C.M.G. 1958

COLONIAL SECRETARY 1958-63

EFTA 1964-73

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PARKING TO COST MORE FROM OCT. 1

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PARKING FEES IN GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY AND TEMPORARY CAR PARKS WILL BE REVISED AS FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE FEE REVISION WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND MENTIONED IN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH EARLIER THIS YEAR.

IT AIMS AT DETERRING MOTORISTS FROM USING THEIR CARS AND SO ADDING TO ROAD CONGESTION, AND AT ENSURING BETTER USE OF THE LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL URBAN AREAS BY DETERRING DRIVERS FROM PARKING FOR LONG PERIODS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE MORE SPACE FOR THOSE WISHING TO PARK FOR SHORTER PERIODS.

THE REVISED FEES ARE SET OUT IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING AND WAITING) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1974 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY CAR PARKS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1974, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

UNDER THE NEW RATES, FEES FOR GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS WILL BE \$2 AN HOUR FOR THE FIRST FIVE HOURS= \$3 AN HOUR FOR THE SIXTH TO EIGHTH HOURS= AND \$4 PER HOUR AFTER THE EIGHTH HOUR, DURING THE FULL-RATE PERIODS FROM 8 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M. ON SATURDAYS.

THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THE EXISTING CHEAP RATE OF 50 CENTS PER HOUR, WITH A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$1, FOR GENERAL HOLIDAYS AND FOR THE PERIODS FROM 7 P.M. TO 8 A.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 2 P.M. ON SATURDAYS TO 8 A.M. ON MONDAYS.

THE FEE FOR A MONTHLY PASS FOR GOVERNMENT MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS WILL BE \$500.

AS FOR TEMPORARY CAR PARKS, THE NEW PARKING CHARGE WILL BE \$5 PER HALF DAY.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING AND WAITING) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1974 ALSO REVISE THE CHARGE FROM \$1 TO \$4 PER HOUR FOR A VEHICLE NOT REMOVED FROM A CAR PARK WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF THE LATEST TIME MARKED ON A TICKET.

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DROP IN EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS
REGISTERED WITH LABOUR DEPARTMENT

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ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, A TOTAL OF 599,333 PERSONS WERE EMPLOYED IN 21,988 REGISTERED AND RECORDED INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN JUNE 1974. THIS REPRESENTS A DROP OF 11,872 PERSONS OR 1.9 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IN MARCH.

IN RELEASING THE SURVEY RESULTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EMPLOYMENT DROPPED IN MOST INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. THE MAIN DECREASES WERE: PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-4,702), FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (-2,885), GARMENTS (-1,589) AND COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING (-1,184). EMPLOYMENT IN ELECTRONICS DECREASED BY 1,059 DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1974 BUT ROSE BY 1,882 IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER, RESULTING IN A NET INCREASE OF 823 SINCE DECEMBER 1973.

THE LARGEST FIVE INDUSTRIES, IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, REMAINED THE MANUFACTURE OF WEARING APPAREL (INCLUDING GARMENTS AND KNITWEAR) 162,982, TEXTILES 94,940, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES 69,575, PLASTIC PRODUCTS 60,995 AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS 48,247.

EMPLOYMENT IN REGISTERED UNDERTAKINGS WHICH ARE NOT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, WENT UP BY 348 TO 43,990 IN JUNE.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DECLINE OF 1.9 PER CENT, WHICH BRINGS THE TOTAL FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR TO 4.4 PER CENT, WAS DISAPPOINTING, AS THERE WAS USUALLY AN INCREASE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

THE DECLINE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR WAS LARGELY SEASONAL, BUT HE ATTRIBUTED THE DECLINE IN THE SECOND QUARTER TO A FALLING OFF IN ORDERS FROM OVERSEAS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT REFLECT SO MUCH A DETERIORATION IN OUR EXTERNAL COMPETITIVE POSITION AS A SLOWING DOWN IN THE VOLUME OF WORLD TRADE GENERALLY.

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MAJOR RECLAMATION PROJECT IN SHATIN PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RECLAIM ABOUT 141 ACRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED ON THE EASTERN COAST OF TIDE COVE, NEW TERRITORIES, WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING MORE LAND AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN FOR PRIVATE HOUSING AND LIGHT INDUSTRY.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RESIDENTIAL SITES TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 23,000 PEOPLE AS WELL AS AREAS FOR RECREATION, A CLINIC, A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, COOKED FOOD STALLS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES. ABOUT 40 ACRES OF THE FORMED LAND WILL BE RESERVED FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, WHICH CALLS ON ANYONE HAVING OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL OR ANY CLAIM OF PRIVATE RIGHT TO SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM NOW.

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MORE PARKING SPACES FOR CHOI HUNG ESTATE
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TO CONSTRUCT A GARAGE BUILDING IN CHOI HUNG ESTATE TO EASE THE SHORTAGE OF PARKING FACILITIES IN THE ESTATE.

TENDERS WERE INVITED TODAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUR-STORY BLOCK WHICH WILL PROVIDE 500 PARKING SPACES FOR THE ESTATE TENANTS. THE ROOF OF THE BLOCK WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO A PLAY AREA.

+THE GARAGE WILL PROVIDE THE VERY MUCH NEEDED ADDITIONAL PARKING FACILITIES FOR THE ESTATE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SAID.

+PARKING IN THE ESTATE HAS BEEN CHAOTIC,+ HE NOTED. +BUT WITH THE ADDITIONAL 500 SPACES AND THE EXISTING 400 OPEN AIR PARKING SPACES THE CONGESTED SITUATION WILL BE EASED CONSIDERABLY IF NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATED.+

THE PLAY AREA ON THE ROOF OF THE GARAGE WILL BE LINKED TO THE THREE SURROUNDING DOMESTIC BLOCKS BY FOOTBRIDGES FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE ESTATE TENANTS. IT WILL PROVIDE AS MUCH PLAY SPACE AS THE EXISTING PLAYGROUND ON WHICH THE BLOCK IS BUILT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN IN NOVEMBER, AND TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

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PENSIONERS GET 10 PER CENT RAISE
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APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR A 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN PENSIONS WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1974.

THIS INCREASE WILL BE PAID TO ALL GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS IN RECEIPT OF A PENSION ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 1974 AND WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF 55.

THOSE PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED AFTER APRIL 1, 1974 WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INCREASE, BUT THEIR PENSIONS WILL BE ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT GOVERNMENT SALARY INCREASES.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON APRIL 1, 1974 WILL ALSO BE INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM THAT DATE.

THE INCREASE IN PENSIONS WILL COST APPROXIMATELY \$3.8 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE INCREASED BENEFITS WILL BE PAID TO ELIGIBLE PENSIONERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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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

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) MODE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE:</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	GOOD	NO SALE
CHU CHO	GOOD	NO SALE
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.80
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	NO SALE
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	NO SALE
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.74
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	NO SALE
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	NO SALE

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

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	4.30	1.70	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	0.90	2.20
SQUID	GOOD	3.30	1.20	2.00
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	3.40	0.50	1.60
CROAKERS	LIMITED	1.70	0.50	1.30
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.20	1.50	1.80
MELON COAT	LIMITED	1.70	1.00	1.20
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.50	3.20	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	2.30	0.35	1.10
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.50	1.40	3.20
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	0.80	0.30	0.50
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.00	0.40	0.60
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	5.50	2.50	3.80
MELON SEED	GOOD	2.00	0.45	1.20
POMFRETS	LIMITED	9.00	7.00	8.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	9.50	6.00	8.00
YELLOW CROAKER	LIMITED	6.70	2.00	4.80

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	NORMAL	1.80	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.15	0.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.30	0.40	0.80
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.10	0.35
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.20
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	2.20	0.60	1.40
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	1.60	0.30	1.00
SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.50	1.50	2.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.20	0.50
TOMATO	SCARCE	5.20	2.50	4.00