



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

FRESH WATER FROM THE SEA PRODUCED DURING TRIAL OPERATIONS OF DESALTER AT LOK ON PAI .....	1
HONG KONG EXPERIENCED A WARMER AND CLOUDIER MARCH THIS YEAR	2
PRESS VISIT TO HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS TOMORROW .....	3
BRIEFING ON ROYAL VISIT PRESS ARRANGEMENTS .....	3
MR. ERIC HO TO OFFICIATE AT OPENING OF WORLD LIFE-SAVING ANNUAL MEETING .....	4
TOTAL WATER STORAGE NOW OVER 44,000 MILLION GALLONS .....	4
TEMPORARY WATER STOPPAGE IN SHAMSHUIPO .....	5

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MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975

- 1 -

HONG KONG PRODUCES ITS FIRST DESALTED WATER  
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HONG KONG HAS STARTED TO PRODUCE FRESH WATER FROM THE SEA IN THE COURSE OF TRIAL OPERATIONS OF THE NO. 1 EVAPORATOR OF THE DESALTER AT LOK ON PAI.

CONFIRMING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATERWORKS OFFICE SAID THAT FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE STEAM AVAILABLE TO OPERATE THE FIRST OF THE PLANT'S SIX UNITS, AND THEREFORE THE +BOILING OUT+ OF THE NO. 1 BOILER WAS BEGUN IN LATE DECEMBER.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE METICULOUS TESTING OF ALL ITEMS OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT. FINALLY CAME THE TRIAL RUN OF THE NO. 1 EVAPORATOR, WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH.

+OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS+, SAID THE SPOKESMAN, +WE HAVE BEEN DESALTING ON A TEST BASIS AND AT TIMES THE UNIT HAS BEEN PRODUCING ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 6-2/3 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER A DAY.

+THIS HAS GONE INTO TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR AND PEOPLE IN TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN DRINKING OR USING WATER WITH A VERY SMALL DESALTED ELEMENT IN IT.+

WHEN ALL SIX UNITS ARE OPERATIONAL, THE DESALTER WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 40 MILLION GALLONS A DAY, PROVIDING HONG KONG WITH AN +INSURANCE+ DEVICE AGAINST THE WORST EFFECTS OF ANY SEVERE DROUGHT WHICH COULD HIT THE TERRITORY.

BUT IT WILL ONLY BE RUN AT FULL CAPACITY TO MEET SUCH A SITUATION. ITS USE WILL NORMALLY BE KEPT LOW, WITH THE NUMBER UNITS IN OPERATION VARYING IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEMAND.

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OF THE PLANT, MR. E.J. EVANS, SAID TODAY THAT THE TESTS, WHICH ARE CONTINUING, HAD TO BE VERY THOROUGH.

+APART FROM BEING THE LARGEST DESALTER IN THE WORLD, THE PLANT WE'VE GOT HERE AT LOK ON PAI REQUIRES HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENTS AND CONTROL GEAR. THERE ARE BOUND TO BE A FAIR NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS TO SORT OUT, AND THIS IS WHY EACH UNIT HAS TO BE SUBJECTED TO A SIX-MONTH TRIAL. THIS PROCESS OF RIGOROUS TESTING IS TO ENSURE THAT WHEN THE WHOLE PLANT IS HANDED OVER, IT IS UP TO THE HIGHEST OPERATIONAL STANDARDS.+

TESTING OF THE FIRST UNIT SHOULD BE COMPLETED AROUND SEPTEMBER. BUT BEFORE THEN TESTS WILL HAVE STARTED ON THE SECOND UNIT, WITH SUCCESSIVE UNITS COMING UNDER TEST AT ROUGHLY THREE-MONTH INTERVALS. ALL UNITS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TESTED, AND THE PLANT FULLY COMMISSIONED, BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

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MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975.

- 2 -

MARCH 1975 WEATHER ROUND UP

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HONGKONG EXPERIENCED A WARMER AND CLOUDIER MARCH THAN USUAL, WITH ONLY 43.6 HOURS OF SUNSHINE. THIS WAS THE 8TH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH AND WAS 51.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL.

THERE WERE ONLY FOUR DAYS LAST MONTH WITH NO RAINFALL RECORDED, BUT THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL ONLY EXCEEDED THE AVERAGE BY 13 PER CENT.

THE CLOUDY AND DULL WEATHER WAS A RESULT OF A WARM AND MOIST AIRSTREAM WHICH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ANTICYCLONE CENTRED OVER EAST CHINA AND THE NEIGHBOURING SEAS.

MIST AND FOG OCCURRED QUITE OFTEN DUE TO THE HIGH RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND LIGHT WINDS. THE VISIBILITY AT KAITAK AIRPORT AND WAGLAN ISLAND REDUCED TO 600 AND 200 METRES RESPECTIVELY ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 5. FIVE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THE THUNDERSTORM AND HEAVY RAIN WARNING WAS ISSUED ON MARCH 4 AND THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ENFORCED ON DRIER DAYSON MARCH 17 - 18 AND MARCH 24 - 25.

THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.3 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MARCH 23, AND THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 11.5 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MARCH 15 AFTER A RAINY NIGHT.

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE :-

SUNSHINE	43.6 HOURS	= 51.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	81.5 MM	= 9.3 MM ABOVE NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	91 %	= 9% ABOVE NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	83%	= NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	20.7 C	= 0.8 C ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	18.5 C	= 1.0 C ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	16.9 C	= 1.3 C ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	15.5 C	= 0.7 C ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	75.0 MM	= 39.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

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/3 .....

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975

- 3 -

PRESS VISIT TO HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS  
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE NEW HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS, WHICH WILL BE SEEN BY THE QUEEN NEXT MONTH, HAS NOW ENTERED ITS FINAL CONSTRUCTION STAGE.

A PRESS VISIT TO THE TERMINUS HAS BEEN ARRANGED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR TOMORROW AFTERNOON (TUESDAY, APRIL 15) AT 2.30 P.M.

TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MURRAY BUILDING (IN THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR), LEAVING FOR THE SITE AT 2 P.M.

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ROYAL VISIT -- PRESS ARRANGEMENTS  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PRESS BRIEFING WILL BE HELD AT 3 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 16) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL VISIT NEXT MONTH. FULL PARTICULARS OF PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ROYAL VISIT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BRIEFING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE G.I.S. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

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MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975

- 4 -

OPENING CEREMONY OF WORLD LIFESAVING ANNUAL MEETING  
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. ERIC HO, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WORLD LIFESAVING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 9.00 AM IN THE LEE GARDENS HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL LAST UNTIL SATURDAY (APRIL 19).

THE WORLD LIFESAVING IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION AIMED AT RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIFESAVING. IT NOW HAS 12 MEMBERS INCLUDING HONG KONG AND KEEPS CLOSE CONTACT WITH 17 OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, JAPAN AND MANY PACIFIC ISLANDS.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE ATTENDED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE ORGANISATION AND DELEGATES FROM THE 12 MEMBER COUNTRIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEEKLY WATER SITUATION REPORT  
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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL THE RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 44,915 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 66.7 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. THE TOTAL STORAGE AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR WAS 39,941 MILLION GALLONS.

THE STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE THIS MORNING WAS 34,842 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED TO 31,710 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. ITS PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 69 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE 24 HOURS ENDED AT 9 AM TODAY WAS 0.7 MM (0.3 IN). THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR IS 188.7 MM (7.43 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR STANDS AT 197.1 MM (7.76 IN).

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MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975

- 5 -

TEMPORARY WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAMSHUIPO, KOWLOON, WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS AS FROM 1 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 17) TO ENABLE WATERWORKS STAFF TO CARRY OUT A TEST FOR LEAKAGE IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUND BY YU CHAU STREET, WING HONG STREET, KWONG SHING STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, HING WAH STREET, FUK WING STREET, CHEONG WAH STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, AND KWONG CHEONG STREET.

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# ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Monday, April 14, 1975

## ROYAL VISIT COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE

### Details on First-Day Covers

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Two special stamps, denominations \$1.30 and \$2, will go on sale at all post offices on April 30 to mark the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

To match these new stamps, special first-day covers will go on sale at all post offices from Wednesday, April 16, at 20 cents each.

A spokesman for the Postmaster General requests the public "to obtain their requirements early to avoid disappointment."

Advance orders for the servicing of first-day covers will be accepted at the General Post Office, Pedder Street; the Kowloon Central Post Office, Nathan Road; and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Salisbury Road.

The spokesman advises that for this service, "addressed first-day covers must be handed in with an order form, together with a remittance to cover the cost."

The charge will be \$3.40 per cover, which includes the cost of the two stamps, together with a service fee of 10 cents. The covers must be fully addressed by the applicant, and no fewer than 10 covers will be accepted with each order.

The order forms will be available at the General Post Office, the Kowloon Central Post Office, and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on Wednesday, April 16.

/Any person .....

Any person ordering serviced covers addressed to a local destination may collect them on May 1, 1975, from the office where the order was placed.

"Covers addressed overseas will be sent forward by ordinary post, surface mail, unless sufficient stamps are affixed to cover air mail, and or registration charges," the spokesman explains. "The latest acceptance date for advance orders of serviced covers will be April 28, 1975."

A service will be provided on Wednesday, April 30, 1975, at all post offices to permit first-day covers to be accepted over the counter, impressed with the normal post office date stamp, and handed back to the person presenting them. No time type will appear in the postmark.

But the spokesman lists these conditions for the service:-

- \* Only articles bearing an indication that they are 'first-day covers' will be so treated.
- \* The articles must be addressed to local addresses.
- \* The articles must not bear any other cancellation.
- \* No registered items will be processed by this method.

Special posting boxes will also be available at the General Post Office, the Kowloon Central Post Office, and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on April 30, 1975, for members of the public who wish to have first-day covers carefully hand-postmarked before despatch to the address on the covers.