



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
WATERWORKS STAFF COMPLETE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST PHASE OF WATER RESTRICTIONS STARTING AT 10 P.M. TOMORROW	1
\$28.9 MILLION LOST IN FIRES DURING FIRST EIGHT MONTHS THIS YEAR	2
WATER SITUATION REPORT: TOTAL STORAGE DOWN TO 35,594 MILLION GALLONS	2
\$19.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE TO BE SIGNED TOMORROW	3
MID-LEVELS BUS-ONLY LANES OPENED TO PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES	3
REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR 1975 CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS	4
DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED	4
OPEN DAY AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL TOMORROW	5
SHATIN DISTRICT OFFICE OPENS IN NEW PREMISES	5

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES	

WATERWORKS STAFF ALL SET TO GO

* * * * *

FROM EARLY THIS MORNING (TUESDAY) WATERWORKS STAFF WERE HARD AT WORK COMPLETING THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIG TURN-OFF OF WATER SUPPLIES BEGINNING AT 10 P.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) NIGHT WHEN THE FIRST PHASE OF RESTRICTIONS COMES INTO EFFECT.

A WATERWORKS SPOKESMAN SAID: +IT'S BEEN A TOUGH SLOG GETTING THINGS READY FOR THE SWITCH-OFF, INVOLVING A LOT OF OVERTIME DUTY FOR MANY OF OUR WORKERS. BUT WE'RE FIT, AND READY TO GET OFF THE START LINE TOMORROW EVENING.+

THE SPOKESMAN REPEATED PREVIOUS REMINDERS THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THEIR SUPPLIES TO BE TURNED OFF PRECISELY AT 10 P.M.

+THE SWITCH-OFF TIME+, HE SAID, +WILL VARY BY MINUTES FROM PLACE TO PLACE AS OUR TURNCOCK STAFF WORK THEIR WAY FROM ONE VALVE TO THE NEXT.

+THE SAME THING WILL APPLY TO THE RESUMPTION OF SUPPLIES AT 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING. CONSUMERS SHOULD NOT GET WORKED UP IF THEIR SUPPLY COMES BACK SOME MINUTES LATE.+

HE ADDED THAT ALL THE SIGNS WERE THAT PEOPLE WERE TAKING THE START OF RESTRICTIONS CALMLY AND SENSIBLY. +THIS IS VERY WELCOME TO US+, HE REMARKED, +BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT OUR TELEPHONE LINES TO BECOME BLOCKED WITH MINOR QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS.+

THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. BILL KNIGHT, PRAISED HIS STAFF FOR THE EFFORT THEY HAD MADE IN THE PREPARATORY STAGE.

+WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO YET - AND THE SLOG WILL CONTINUE AS WE PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS. BUT I'M CONFIDENT THAT, WITH THE GOODWILL AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WE'RE GOING TO MOVE STEADILY TOWARDS OUR TARGET OF A 25 PER CENT SAVING IN CONSUMPTION OVER THE WINTER MONTHS.+

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:

IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICES FOR HELP IN COVERING THE TURN-OFF OF WATER VALVES TOMORROW NIGHT, THE WATERWORKS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORDIALLY INVITES NEWSMEN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING TWO FACILITIES :-

1. HONG KONG ISLAND

LOCATION: JUNCTION OF KING'S ROAD AND KAM HONG STREET. FROM 9.30 P.M., WATERWORKS STAFF WILL BE WORKING THEIR WAY FROM THIS LOCATION EASTWARDS ALONG KING'S ROAD TO HEALTHY STREET EAST.

2. KOWLOON

LOCATION: IN NAM CHEONG STREET, OUTSIDE BLOCK 16 OF PAK TIN HOUSING ESTATE. OPERATIONS HERE WILL BEGIN AT ABOUT 9.30 P.M. ALSO. A GOOD WAY OF GETTING THERE IS TO DRIVE ALONG CORNUALL STREET AND ITS EXTENSION AND TO TURN LEFT AT THE ROUNDABOUT INTO NAM CHEONG STREET.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

- 2 -

\$28.9 MILLION LOST IN FIRES
PUBLIC AGAIN WARNED ON FIRE DANGER
* * * * *

THE ESTIMATED MONETARY LOSSES FROM FIRE DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AMOUNT TO \$28.9 MILLION -- MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR WHEN FINANCIAL LOSSES TOTALLED \$20.3 MILLION.

+AND UNLESS PEOPLE START BEING EXTRA CAREFUL THE FIGURE MAY GO UP HIGHER AS WE HAVEN'T EVEN REACHED THE NORMAL PEAK FIRE PERIOD YET,+ A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN WARNED.

BETWEEN JANUARY AND AUGUST THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 4,653 FIRES, 202 MORE THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. OF THESE, 251 WERE INDUSTRIAL FIRES ACCOUNTING FOR \$23.7 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LOSSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DRIER THAN USUAL WEATHER HAD UNDOUBTEDLY HAD A SIGNIFICANT BEARING ON THE HIGHER NUMBER OF FIRES, BUT ADDED THAT MOST OF THESE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF SIMPLE PREVENTION MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN.

+CARELESSNESS IS AT THE ROOT OF MOST FIRES,+ HE SAID, URGING THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO PREVENT FIRE.

THE SPOKESMAN REPEATED THE WARNING GIVEN RECENTLY BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. FRED WATSON, THAT 1974 COULD TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE WORST YEARS FOR FIRES UNLESS THE PUBLIC WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE CAREFUL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER SITUATION REPORT
* * * * *

THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 A.M. TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 35,594 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 52.9 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 66,301 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 27,375 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 50,493 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 54.2 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

0.5 M.M. (0.02 IN.) RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 1,367.3 MM (53.83 IN.).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 1,947.5 MM (76.67 IN.), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 29.8 PER CENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974.

- 3 -

G.P.O. CONTRACT SIGNING
* * * * *

THE \$19.5 MILLION CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN MURRAY BUILDING.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN EARLY OCTOBER AND THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

SIGNING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MR. FRANK HO, A CHIEF ARCHITECT OF P.W.D.'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

THE SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR IS TECHNIC INVESTMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR. S.T. CHIU, WILL BE SIGNING ON BEHALF OF THE FIRM.

.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THIS SIGNING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 12 NOON IN THE P.W.D.'S CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MID-LEVELS BUS-ONLY LANES OPENED
TO PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES
* * * * *

ALL PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE BUS-ONLY LANES INTRODUCED UNDER THE MID-LEVELS TRAFFIC SCHEME, STARTING FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS OR GOODS ALONG THE LANES DURING THE PEAK HOURS FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 A.M. AND FROM 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M. DAILY.

THIS MODIFICATION OF THE TRAFFIC SCHEME TO ALLOW THE USE BY PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES WAS FIRST DISCLOSED IN JUNE THIS YEAR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE NIGHT-TIME RELAXATION FOR ALL TRAFFIC.

AS FROM TOMORROW, PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CAINE ROAD, THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF BONHAM ROAD BETWEEN CAINE ROAD AND PARK ROAD, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PARK ROAD, AND THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF ROBINSON ROAD BETWEEN PARK ROAD AND GLENEALY.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

- 4 -

REGISTRATION FOR 1975 S.C.E.E. OPENS

* * * * *

REGISTRATION OF SCHOOL CANDIDATES FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION FOR 1975 HAS BEGUN.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ARE ADVISED TO SEND THEIR STAFF TO THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON, TO OBTAIN ENTRY FORMS. ALL ENTRY FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE BEFORE OCTOBER 12, 1974.

FOR PRIVATE CANDIDATES, REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 11 AND 22 AT THE CAUSEWAY BAY SUB-TREASURY AT CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING AND THE YAUMATEI SUB-TREASURY AT THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 405 NATHAN ROAD.

PERSONS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE AS PRIVATE CANDIDATES IN THE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EDUCATION EXAMINATION MAY OBTAIN THEIR ENTRY FORMS, BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 4, AT ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR SUB-OFFICE OR THE DISTRICT OFFICES IN TSUEN WAN, YUEN LONG AND TAI PO.

A +GUIDE TO SUBJECT SELECTION+ HAS BEEN PREPARED AND WILL BE ISSUED TO ALL CANDIDATES TOGETHER WITH THE ENTRY FORMS TO ASSIST PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES IN COMPLETING THEIR FORMS.

FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING REGISTRATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE PAPERS IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON APRIL 16, 1974 ON LAI FOR-PUI SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A TERM OF 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

LAI WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF WOO MING-SANG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

- 5 - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL OPEN DAY

* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOMORROW'S (WEDNESDAY'S) OPEN DAY AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO COVER THE OCCASION SHOULD NOW MEET IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE HONG KONG HOTEL IN CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, BEFORE 2 P.M. INSTEAD OF AT THE FORMER SUB-POOL BEHIND TSIMSHATSUI POST OFFICE AS ANNOUNCED EARLIER.

A GOVERNMENT BUS (AM 5017) WILL PICK UP PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN FRONT OF THE HONG KONG HOTEL AT 2 P.M. SHARP AND WILL RETURN AT ABOUT 4.15 P.M. SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER MAK KING-YIU WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST NEWSMEN.

DURING THE VISIT, NEWSMEN WILL BE FREE TO TOUR THE HOSPITAL PREMISES AND SPEAK TO WHOEVER THEY WISH ON ANY SUBJECT, ONLY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PATIENTS AND STAFF BE UNIDENTIFIABLE FOR REASONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SHATIN DISTRICT OFFICE MOVES TO NEW PREMISES

* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SHATIN DISTRICT OFFICE, WHICH WAS SET UP LAST APRIL TO LOOK AFTER THE AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE OF SHATIN, WILL OPERATE FROM NEW PREMISES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

IT WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MRS. D. AKERS-JONES.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH BEGINS AT 4.30 P.M. AT NO. 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL, SHATIN (NEXT TO THE SHATIN POLICE STATION).

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE CEREMONY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED 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) AVERAGE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
THAI RICE		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.84
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.74
A1 : SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.70
A1 : SUPER	GOOD	1.45
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
U.S. RICE		
	GOOD	1.97
AUSTRALIAN RICE		
	GOOD	1.74
PAKISTAN RICE		
	GOOD	-
TAIWAN RICE		
	GOOD	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

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	4.80	2.20	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.50	0.80	1.60
SQUID	GOOD	3.30	1.00	2.20
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	1.80	0.60	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.70	0.40	1.60
CROAKERS	LIMITED	2.50	0.40	1.50
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	2.20	1.60	1.90
MELON COAT	SCARCE	1.20	0.80	1.00
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.00	2.00	3.50
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.20	0.60	0.90
MACKERELS	LIMITED	5.00	2.00	3.50
RED GOAT FISH	SCARCE	1.00	0.50	0.90
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	0.80	0.40	0.60
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	5.20	2.20	3.60
MELON SEED	LIMITED	1.80	1.00	1.40
POMFRETS	LIMITED	6.00	5.00	5.50
GAROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.00	6.20
YELLOW CROAKER	LIMITED	4.80	3.00	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	0.90	0.30	0.60
CHINESE LETTUCE	NORMAL	1.20	0.40	0.80
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.55	0.10	0.30
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.70	1.20
STRING BEANS	LIMITED	1.60	0.30	1.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	2.20	0.60	1.40
SPINACH			NO SALE	
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	4.00	2.00	3.00
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.90	0.30	0.60
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.50	2.00	3.00