



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1975

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MID-YEAR PROPERTY SURVEY

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SOME 14,000 DOMESTIC UNITS SHOULD BE COMPLETED DURING THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO MR. RAYMOND FRY, COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLETIONS DURING 1976 WOULD PROBABLY BE LOWER, HE SAID, BUT AN IMPROVEMENT WAS FORECAST FOR 1977 WHEN OVER 16,000 UNITS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION. THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE INCREASING ACTIVITY BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS IN THE DOMESTIC PROPERTY MARKET, HE ADDED.

MR. FRY WAS COMMENTING ON THE MID-YEAR PROPERTY SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY HIS DEPARTMENT IN JULY THIS YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THE DOMESTIC RENTAL INDEX MOVED UP 3.41 POINTS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR -- AN INCREASE OF TWO PER CENT.

AS THE MAJORITY OF DOMESTIC TENANCIES ARE SUBJECT TO REGULATED INCREASES UNDER THE RENT CONTROL LEGISLATION, RENTS CONTINUED GENERALLY UPWARDS BUT ARE STILL SOME WAY BELOW CURRENT OPEN MARKET LEVELS, MR. FRY EXPLAINED.

MR. FRY SAID THE AMOUNT OF SHOP SPACE LYING VACANT HAD INCREASED FROM 1.43 MILLION SQUARE FEET AT DECEMBER 1974 TO 1.62 MILLION SQUARE FEET AT JULY 1975 FOLLOWING FURTHER COMPLETIONS.

THE SHOP RENTAL INDEX SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 7.14 POINTS OR ABOUT THREE AND A HALF PER CENT OVER THE DECEMBER 1974 FIGURE, REFLECTING A GENERAL SLOWING-DOWN OF RENT INCREASES. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL A FAIRLY GOOD DEMAND FOR RENTED SHOPPING SPACE, PARTICULARLY IN PRIME SHOPPING AREAS.

ON THE INCREASE IN VACANT OFFICE SPACE, MR. FRY SAID ABOUT 1.7 MILLION SQUARE FEET WAS NOW VACANT, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 0.6 MILLION SQUARE FEET ON THE DECEMBER 1974 FIGURE. MOST OF THE NEW VACANCIES OCCURRED IN SHEUNG WAN DISTRICT BUT CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI DISTRICTS ALSO HAD SIGNIFICANT VACANCY SITUATIONS. THE INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF VACANT OFFICE SPACE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED PRIMARILY TO THE INCREASE IN SUPPLY DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

OFFICE RENTAL LEVELS HAVE FALLEN SINCE DECEMBER LAST YEAR WITH OFFICES OF POORER QUALITY COMING UNDER PRESSURE. RENTS OF GOOD CLASS ACCOMMODATION IN CENTRAL BUSINESS AREAS HELD UP FAIRLY WELL, HOWEVER, WITH AN AVERAGE REDUCTION OF ONLY SIX PER CENT.

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ON THE VACANCY POSITION FOR MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL PREMISES, MR. FRY SAID THE DEMAND FOR THIS TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION HAD BEEN RATHER WEAK AND THE VACANCY POSITION HAD NOW INCREASED TO 1.5 MILLION SQUARE FEET.

LITTLE CHANGE HAD BEEN OBSERVED IN THE AMOUNT OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE LYING VACANT DESPITE A FURTHER 1.1 MILLION SQUARE FEET BEING COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. THE FIGURE OF VACANT FLATTED FACTORY ACCOMMODATION CURRENTLY STANDS AT 2.75 MILLION SQUARE FEET.

MR. FRY SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN DEFERRED OR SHELVED AND FORECASTS FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS HAVE THEREFORE BEEN AFFECTED, BUT A FAIR AMOUNT REMAINS IN THE PIPELINE.

THE RENTAL SITUATION FOR FLATTED FACTORIES WAS RATHER MIXED BUT IT APPEARS THAT RENTS ARE STABILIZING WITH A SLIGHT DOWNWARD TREND RESULTING FROM ADJUSTMENTS TO RENTS FIXED AT THE PEAK OF THE MARKET.

A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF VACANT STORAGE SPACE HAS BEEN RECORDED AND THE FIGURE NOW STANDS AT SOME 450,000 SQUARE FEET COMPARED WITH ABOUT 250,000 SQUARE FEET SIX MONTHS BEFORE.

COPIES OF THE COMMISSIONER'S MID-YEAR REPORT, IN THE FORM OF A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PROPERTY REVIEW 1975, ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT NO. 1 GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES FOR G.C.E. EXAMS

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REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES WISHING TO SIT EITHER THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (G.C.E.) OR THE ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD G.C.E. WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD G.C.E., WHICH WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD SEPTEMBER 10 TO 12 AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON G.C.E., WHICH WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 1976, WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE C.D.O.'S BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15 AND 19.

THE TWO EXAMINATIONS ARE LIMITED TO CANDIDATES OF JUNE 1975 G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS AND THE SUBJECTS MUST HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN ENTERED IN THE JUNE 1975 EXAMINATIONS AT THE SAME LEVEL.

CANDIDATES MAY ENTER EITHER ONE OF THE G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS. ANY CANDIDATE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER FOR BOTH IS LIABLE TO BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BOTH EXAMINATIONS.

CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO REPEAT AN 'A' LEVEL SUBJECT REQUIRING A PRACTICAL TEST MUST HAVE OBTAINED GRADE 'O' OR ABOVE IN THE SAME SUBJECT IN ONE OF THE JUNE 1975 G.C.E. EXAMINATIONS.

COMPLETED FORMS, TOGETHER WITH FEES AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON, BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M. WITHIN THE SPECIFIED REGISTRATION PERIODS AT EITHER THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, ELECTRIC ROAD, HONG KONG, OR AT THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

THE INITIAL ENTRY FEE PER CANDIDATE IS \$40. IN ADDITION, THE FEE FOR EACH SUBJECT OFFERED AT ORDINARY LEVEL IS \$40 AND AT ADVANCED LEVEL \$70. CANDIDATES OFFERING PRACTICAL TESTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$45 FOR EACH TEST.

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CIVICS EXHIBITION AT KOWLOON CITY

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AN EXHIBITION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF KOWLOON CITY IS TO BE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 12 AND 15 TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF CONDITIONS AND FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT YING WAH COLLEGE AT OXFORD ROAD AND WILL BE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 5 P.M. IT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY KOWLOON CITY C.D.O., THE KOWLOON CITY COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE, AND THE KOWLOON CITY YOUTH SERVICES COUNCIL.

THE EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE THEMES ON HOUSING, SOCIAL SECURITY, TRANSPORT, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, HISTORY, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE DISTRICT.

MORE THAN 30 SCHOOLS AND AGENCIES WILL TAKE PART, INCLUDING THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION, THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE, AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS (SARDA).

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING PART IN A QUIZ IN WHICH THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE EXHIBITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED AT 11.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 12) BY DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, AND BY MR. MICHAEL SZE, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FOR KOWLOON. YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE OPENING CEREMONY COVERED.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TODAY THAT FINDLAY PATH IN THE PEAK AREA ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO ENABLE SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE PATH IS NOT EXPECTED TO CAUSE MUCH INCONVENIENCE AS IT HAS BEEN LITTLE USED.

TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED TO INFORM MOTORISTS.

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RESERVOIRS 98 PER CENT FULL  
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HONG KONG'S TOTAL WATER STORAGE STOOD AT 66,170 MILLION GALLONS THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 98.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 38,284 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST RESERVOIR WITH A CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS, HELD 50,233 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 99.5 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, PLOVER COVE ONLY HELD 29,297 MILLION GALLONS.

NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY. RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR AMOUNTS TO 2,400.4 MM (94.50 IN.), WHILE THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL STANDS AT 1,782.5 MM (70.18 IN.).

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OPENING OF NEW LEGAL YEAR  
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THE NEW LEGAL YEAR WILL OPEN ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 12).

TO MARK THE OCCASION A CHURCH SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AT 9.30 A.M. THAT DAY.

ATTENDING WILL BE JUDGES, MAGISTRATES, MEMBERS OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION AND OF THE LAW SOCIETY AND THOSE WORKING IN THE COURTS.

THE COURTS WILL RESUME SITTING AT 11 A.M. ON FRIDAY.

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