



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CARGO HANDLING TO BE CONTROLLED -- WAN CHAI CARGO BASIN OPERATIVE FROM FRIDAY	1
YOUNG VOLUNTEERS TO STUDY SOCIAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN LYEMUN VILLAGE	3
COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT SAYS BUS COMPANIES OWE DUTY NOT ONLY TO THEIR SHAREHOLDERS BUT ALSO TO THE PUBLIC	4
WATERCUT IN YUEN LONG	5
IMPROVED TEXTILE ACCORD WITH CANADA SECURED ...	6
FACILITIES FOR WAH FU ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION	7
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ADOPTED NEW EFFICIENCY MEASURES	8
SECOND-HAND SCHOOL TEXTBOOK FOR SALE	9
NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN WAN CHAI	10
DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED	10

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES	

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

- 1 -

WAN CHAI CARGO BASIN OPERATIVE ON FRIDAY
CARGO HANDLING TO BE CONTROLLED
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THE WAN CHAI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING BASIN - SITE FOR HONG KONG'S FIRST PILOT CONTROL SCHEME FOR REGULATING CARGO HANDLING ACTIVITIES AT PUBLIC SEAWALLS - WILL BE OPERATIVE ON FRIDAY (JULY 26).

MR. ANN TSE-KAI, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WILL DECLARE THE BASIN OPEN AT 10.30 A.M. ON THAT DAY.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY MR. BERNARD TANG, SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (CARGO HANDLING), AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY WHEN HE GAVE DETAILS OF THE SCHEME AND THE CHARGES TO BE LEVIED AT THE BASIN.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE WAS MR. KAM CHAN-YIU, AN ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WHO SPOKE ON A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ROUTES FOR GOODS VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE CARGO WORKING AREA.

MR. TANG SAID THE OPENING OF THE PURPOSE BUILT WAN CHAI BASIN FOLLOWED THE PASSAGE INTO LAW OF THE PORT CONTROL (CARGO WORKING AREAS) BILL 1974 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING LAST WEDNESDAY (JULY 17).

THE NEWLY ENACTED LEGISLATION MAINLY PROVIDES FOR CONTROL OF THE USE OF WATER-FRONT AREAS BY PERSONS, VEHICLES AND VESSELS, AND GENERALLY FOR CONTROL OF THE HANDLING OF CARGO IN SUCH AREAS.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, PUBLIC SEAWALLS ARE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES - PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, PUBLIC WATERFRONTS AND EXCLUDED WATERFRONTS. CARGO MOVEMENT IS PERMITTED IN ALL PUBLIC SEAWALLS EXCEPT EXCLUDED WATERFRONTS.

AND THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IS EMPOWERED TO INTRODUCE CONTROL MEASURES OVER CARGO WORKING ACTIVITIES.

THE WAN CHAI BASIN IS LOCATED AT THE EASTERN END OF THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION WITH A SEA FRONTAGE OF 2,800 FEET FOR BERTHING CARGO VESSELS, AND PARKING SPACE FOR 134 LORRIES.

THE BASIN COULD ACCOMMODATE, AT ANY ONE TIME, 21 DUMP STEEL LIGHTERS AND 28 MOTOR CARGO BOATS.

MR. TANG POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION OPERATORS CONCLUDED THAT THE AREA SHOULD BE OPERATED ON A 24-HOUR BASIS WITH MARINE DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT TO REGULATE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

/CHARGES, HE

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

- 2 -

CHARGES, HE SAID, WOULD BE IMPOSED ON BOTH GOODS VEHICLES AND CARGO VESSELS USING FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT THE BASIN.

LORRIES WOULD BE CHARGED A PARKING FEE OF \$4 PER HOUR OR PART THEREOF BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 7 P.M. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE CARGO HANDLING OUTSIDE PEAK HOURS, THIS FEE WOULD BE REDUCED TO \$1 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7 P.M. AND 7 A.M. EVERYDAY.

HE ADDED THAT A CARGO WORKING PERMIT WHICH COSTS \$10 EACH DAY WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EVERY VESSEL USING THE BASIN.

COMMENTING ON THE CHARGES, MR. TANG REITERATED THAT THESE CONTROL MEASURES, MAKING A FASTER TURN-AROUND OF BOTH LIGHTERS AND VEHICLES POSSIBLE, WOULD RESULT IN SAVINGS OF WAITING TIME, WHICH IN TURN, WOULD MEAN SAVINGS IN DEMURRAGE CHARGES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE SAVINGS WOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET THE CHARGES LEVIED, AND SHOULD NOT LEAD TO HIGHER OPERATION COSTS BEING PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER.

HE ADDED THAT AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF CO-ORDINATING THE MOVEMENT OF CARGO SHOULD, IN FACT, REDUCE HANDLING COSTS.

REFERRING TO THE HISTORY OF THE WAN CHAI BASIN, MR. TANG POINTED OUT THAT IN 1966, THE PORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT WORKING CONDITIONS AT VARIOUS PUBLIC CARGO-HANDLING AREAS WERE BECOMING CHAOTIC AS THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ROSE.

IT CONCLUDED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO IMPOSE CONTROL MEASURES SO AS TO ACHIEVE BETTER CO-ORDINATION ON THE LANDWARD AND SEAWARD SIDES OF THE SEAWALLS BY REDUCING CONGESTION, MUCH OF WHICH WAS CAUSED BY LORRY PARKING.

WHILE RECOMMENDING ACTION BE INITIATED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, THE COMMITTEE ALSO FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE HIGH COST OF CONSTRUCTING SEAWALLS FOR CARGO-WORKING AND THE HIGH VALUE OF THE SITES MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT WAS REASONABLE TO LEVY CHARGES FROM BOTH LIGHTERS AND LORRIES.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THIS PARTICULAR COMMITTEE WERE ACCEPTED BY THE PORT COMMITTEE AND LATER CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WHO DIRECTED THAT PILOT CONTROL SCHEMES BE INTRODUCED.

ON THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS VEHICLES TO AND FROM THE WAN CHAI BASIN, MR. KAM CHAN-YIU OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE SAID HIS OFFICE HAD STUDIED THE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA AND MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LORRY DRIVERS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO PROVIDE SOME GUIDELINES FOR THE DRIVERS TO ENSURE THAT NO UNNECESSARY TRAFFIC CONGESTION WOULD RESULT IN THE VICINITY BECAUSE OF THE OPENING OF THE BASIN.

THESE SUGGESTED

THESE SUGGESTED ROUTINGS FOR GOODS VEHICLES, IN FACT, FOLLOWED ALL EXISTING ROUTES WITH ADEQUATE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNS ERECTED IN THE AREA TO GUIDE THE DRIVERS.

MR. KAM LISTED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED ROUTES FOR LORRY DRIVERS:

TO THE CARCO-HANDLING BASIN:

- (1) VEHICLES WILL APPROACH FROM THE WEST VIA GLOUCESTER RD/MARSH RD.
- (2) VEHICLES WILL APPROACH FROM THE EAST VIA VICTORIA PARK RD/GLOUCESTER RD/O'DRIEN RD/LOCKHART RD/MARSH RD FLYOVER.
- (3) VEHICLES WILL APPROACH FROM KOULOON VIA THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL/GLOUCESTER RD/O'DRIEN RD/LOCKHART RD/MARSH RD FLYOVER.
- (4) VEHICLES WILL APPROACH FROM THE SOUTH, VIA TIN LOK LANE/MARSH RD FLYOVER.

FROM THE CARCO HANDLING BASIN:

- (1) VEHICLES WILL PROCEED TO THE WEST VIA MARSH RD FLYOVER/LOCKHART RD/STEWART RD/GLOUCESTER RD.
- (2) VEHICLES WILL PROCEED TO THE EAST VIA TONNOCHY RD/GLOUCESTER RD/VICTORIA PARK RD.
- (3) VEHICLES WILL PROCEED TO KOULOON VIA TONNOCHY RD/GLOUCESTER RD/CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.
- (4) VEHICLES WILL PROCEED TO THE SOUTH VIA TONNOCHY RD/GLOUCESTER RD/CANAL RD FLYOVER.

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STUDY ON SOCIAL NEEDS IN LYEMUN

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A GROUP OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS IS TO CONDUCT A STUDY THIS FRIDAY (JULY 26) TO FIND OUT THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN LYEMUN VILLAGE, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNGER SECTOR.

THE STUDY HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE IN KWUN TONG AND HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE LYEMUN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION AND VILLAGERS LIVING IN THE AREA.

THE C.Y.O., MR. WONG KING-TONG, SAID THE STUDY WAS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE INFORMATION ON WHICH A SOUNDER BASE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR DETERMINING FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE.

VOLUNTARY YOUTH WORKERS IN KWUN TONG INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM THE UPPER FORMS OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WILL BE CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT AND IN SO DOING WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OTHERS WITHIN THEIR OWN ENVIRONS.

THESE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON HOW TO GO ABOUT CONDUCTING A SURVEY AT A SPECIAL SESSION TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON IN THE HALL OF THE LAM TIN WEST ESTATE WELFARE BUILDING.

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TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

- 4 -

'BUS COMPANIES OWE DUTY TO PUBLIC', BRIAN WILSON

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. BRIAN WILSON, TODAY CALLED ON THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY DID OWE A DUTY TO THE PUBLIC RATHER THAN MERELY TO THEIR SHAREHOLDERS.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG. IN HIS SPEECH, HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE TRANSPORT GREEN PAPER AND THE WAYS PEOPLE COULD COMMENT ON THE PAPER MORE CONVINCINGLY.

HE SAID THE PUBLIC HAD LONG COMPLAINED ABOUT THE POOR STANDARDS OF BUS SERVICES ALTHOUGH, IN RECENT YEARS, THINGS HAD SLIGHTLY IMPROVED LARGELY AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS BY INDIVIDUALS IN THE BUS COMPANIES.

TOO OFTEN, HE SAID, MAKING A PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF A REASONABLE SERVICE SEEMS TO BE THE OVERRIDING MOTIVE, AND THE COMPANIES' BOARDS APPEAR TO THINK THAT THEY OWE A DUTY ONLY TO THEIR SHAREHOLDERS AND NOT TO THE PUBLIC.

+IF THIS ISN'T SO, THEN IT'S ABOUT TIME THE BOARDS DEMONSTRATE OTHERWISE BY ACTUAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN SEE AND ENJOY,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILSON SAID: +WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY CLEAR FORWARD PLANNING TO ESTIMATE DEMAND IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, TO ORDER THE RIGHT NUMBER OF BUSES TO MEET THAT DEMAND, TO BUILD DEPOTS FOR MAINTAINING THESE VEHICLES, TO ASSESS THE STAFF REQUIRED TO DRIVE AND MAINTAIN VEHICLES, AND TO MAKE THE REQUISITE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.+

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE LEGAL POWERS OVER THE BUS COMPANIES. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD POINT THE FINGER AT THE COMPANIES' BOARDS.

HE STRESSED THE POINT THAT, IF THE BUS SERVICES WERE NOT IMPROVED TO PROVIDE A POPULAR ALTERNATIVE, A POLICY OF RESTRAINTS ON OWNERSHIP AND USE OF VEHICLES WOULD BE MUCH LESS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

+WE ARE AIMING IN THE LONG RUN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES TO WHAT THE ROADS CAN REASONABLY CARRY AT PEAK PERIODS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE GREEN PAPER, MR. WILSON EXPLAINED THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO PUT TOGETHER IN ONE DOCUMENT VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT POLICY THAT MADE THE BEST USE OF THE ROAD SYSTEM.

+SINCE MOST OF THE POPULATION IS IN SOME WAY DEPENDENT ON TRANSPORT, IT MAKES SENSE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT OUT PROPOSALS AND INVITE PUBLIC COMMENTS,+ HE SAID.

/HOWEVER, HE

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974.

- 5 -

HOWEVER, HE SAID, PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PAPER, WELCOME AS THEY ARE, WOULD COMMAND MORE ATTENTION IF THEY WERE BACKED BY REASONS AND IF THE COMMENTATORS DID THEIR +HOMEWORK+ BEFOREHAND.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE DETAILED REASONS ON WHICH A VIEW WAS BASED THAT WERE MORE IMPORTANT. AND TOO OFTEN, HE SAID, CRITICS AND COMMENTATORS SPOKE WITHOUT CHECKING THEIR FACTS AND SEEKING BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

FOR NEW TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SCHEMES, MR. WILSON SAID THE EXISTING PROCEDURE PUT THEM UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY BY SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL HAVING A BRIGHT IDEA AND PUTTING IT INTO EFFECT WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

EVERY SCHEME IS BASED ON FACTS AND FIGURES, USUALLY OBTAINED BY MEANS OF SPECIAL SURVEYS, HE SAID, BECAUSE SUBJECTIVE OPINIONS WHICH ARE NOT BACKED UP BY FACTUAL EVIDENCE DO NOT GET VERY FAR.

MR. WILSON ALSO EXPLAINED WHY THE PROPOSED DEMERIT POINTS SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN TRAFFIC OFFENCES WAS DROPPED, BUT HE WARNED THAT THE POOR STANDARD OF DRIVING WAS LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE MORE SENSIBLE MAJORITY MADE ITS VOICE HEARD AND INSISTED THAT FIRM MEASURES BE TAKEN TO MAKE THE ROADS SAFER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. WILSON'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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WATER CUT
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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR FIVE HOURS AS FROM 1 A.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 25) WHEN A TEST FOR LEAKAGE WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD, KAU YUK ROAD, AND FUNG CHEUNG STREET, INCLUDING YUEN LONG POLICE STATION.

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TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974.

- 6 -

IMPROVED TEXTILE ACCORD WITH CANADA

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HONG KONG HAS SECURED MORE LIBERAL TERMS FOR ITS TEXTILE EXPORTS TO CANADA UNDER A NEW ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WHICH COMES INTO EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1974, MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SAID TODAY.

THE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, WAS NEGOTIATED BY MR. MILLS IN TALKS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OTTAWA.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA WERE CONDUCTED UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT COVERING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES WHICH REQUIRES HONG KONG TO RE-NEGOTIATE ALL ITS EXISTING TEXTILE AGREEMENTS.

SO FAR THIS YEAR NEW ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED OR INTRODUCED WITH THE UNITED STATES, SWEDEN, AND NORWAY. DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING WITH AUSTRIA, AND CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 1, 1974 IN HONG KONG. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ARE EXPECTED TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR.

COMMENTING ON HIS RECENT TALKS WITH CANADA, MR. MILLS SAID: +I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ALL QUANTITATIVE RESTRAINTS ON OUR TEXTILE EXPORTS TO CANADA WILL BE LIFTED SHORTLY.

+COTTON YARN, COTTON TERRY TOWELS AND CERTAIN TYPES OF WOVEN BLOUSES AND TROUSERS WHICH ARE AT PRESENT UNDER RESTRAINT WILL BE LIBERALISED FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

+THE SOLE ITEM REMAINING UNDER LIMITATION AFTER OCTOBER 1 WILL BE MEN'S TAILORED SHIRTS. HOWEVER, THIS RESTRAINT EXTENDS TO NOVEMBER 29 ONLY, AND I AM VERY HOPEFUL THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON THESE SHIRTS BEYOND THIS DATE.

+IN PLACE OF THE PRESENT QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS WE HAVE AGREED TO INTRODUCE SURVEILLANCE MEASURES ON THESE ITEMS AND TO CONTINUE THE SURVEILLANCE MEASURES WE ALREADY HAVE ON KNIT FABRICS, BED SHEETS AND PILLOW CASES+.

MR. MILLS EXPLAINED THAT THE DUAL PURPOSE OF THESE MEASURES WAS TO PROVIDE AN ACCURATE FORWARD PICTURE OF EXPORT TRENDS FOR THE CANADIAN AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS AND TO GIVE EXPORTERS AN ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EXPORT LICENCES FOR CONTRACTED SHIPMENTS.

+THE NEW AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDES FOR EITHER GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER REGARDING ANY MATTER ARISING FROM THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND THEIR OPERATION, + MR. MILLS ADDED.

/MR. MILLS

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974.

- 7 -

MR. MILLS SAID THAT WHILST THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WERE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY THEY IN NO WAY PREVENTED THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FROM SEEKING NEW RESTRAINTS OR THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESENT ONES.

IN THIS REGARD MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE FINDINGS OF THE CANADIAN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING BOARD WHICH IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING SEVERAL SECTORS OF THE CANADIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

MR. MILLS EXPLAINED THAT THE CANADIAN TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BOARD WAS AN IMPARTIAL BODY ESTABLISHED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE THE STATE OF ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR OF THE CANADIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

ITS JOB WAS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE THEN USED AS THE BASE ON WHICH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S TEXTILE POLICY IS BUILT.

CANADA IS HONG KONG'S 7TH LARGEST EXPORT MARKET AND 8TH LARGEST MARKET FOR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING. IN 1973 EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WERE VALUED AT \$245 MILLION. THE VALUE OF EXPORTS OF THE PRODUCTS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO EXPORT CONTROL OR SURVEILLANCE WAS \$43 MILLION IN 1973.

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FACILITIES FOR WAH FU ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TO SPEND \$47,000 FOR THE CONVERSION OF FOUR VACANT BAYS FOR THE USE OF THE WAH FU ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS FORMED LAST YEAR, AIMS AT PROMOTING BETTER UNDERSTANDING, BETTER RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION AMONG ESTATE TENANTS AS WELL AS CONDUCTING WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE FOUR VACANT BAYS, TOTALLING 1,500 SQUARE FEET, ARE AT WAH CHING HOUSE. IT WILL BE USED AS AN OFFICE, A READING/ACTIVITIES ROOM, A MEETING ROOM AND A CLASSROOM FOR FIRST-AID AND RED CROSS CADET TRAINING.

THE ASSOCIATION IS TO PAY A NOMINAL RENT OF \$1 A MONTH EXCLUSIVE OF RATES AND WATER AND ELECTRICITY CHARGES.

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TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

- 8 -

NEW EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN P.W.D.

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS ADOPTED TWO NEW MEASURES WHICH WILL REINFORCE AND EXTEND THE EXISTING MACHINERY FOR PROMOTING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

THE FIRST STEP IS THE SETTING UP OF A MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNIT IN P.W.D. HEADQUARTERS. THE FUNCTION OF THIS UNIT WILL BE TO EXAMINE ALL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND TO RECOMMEND ANY WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN BE MADE QUICKER, SIMPLER, MORE EFFICIENT, MORE ECONOMIC AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.

THE SECOND MEASURE IS THE DECISION TO APPOINT CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS ADVISERS TO THOSE OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WHICH ORGANIZE AND SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

THESE ADVISERS WILL HAVE THE TASK OF ADVISING ON THE DRAFTING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AND KEEPING AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE EYE ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK AND THE RATE OF EXPENDITURE UNDER SUCH CONTRACTS. THE ADVISERS' ROLE WILL SUPERSEDE AND EXPAND THAT OF THE P.W.D.'S FORMER TECHNICAL AUDIT UNIT, WHICH HAS BEEN DISBANDED.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. W.C. BELL, SAID TODAY THAT THE TWO MEASURES REPRESENTED A NOTABLE ADDITION TO THE MANAGEMENT TOOLS ALREADY IN USE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOSTERING OF THE MOST EFFICIENT METHODS AND PROCEDURES.

HE ADDED THAT THE INNOVATIONS HAD BEEN DEVISED AND ADOPTED IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ARMS OF GOVERNMENT AND WERE BASED ALSO ON THE SPECIALIST ADVICE OF INDEPENDENT EFFICIENCY EXPERTS.

+OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS+, HE SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAP THE EXPERTISE BROUGHT TO HONG KONG BY SUCH CONSULTANTS AS MCKINSEY.

+THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, FOR ITS PART, HAS BEEN KEEN TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH EXPERTISE AND THE DECISIONS TO SET UP THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNIT AND TO APPOINT THE CONTRACTS ADVISERS ARE IN LARGE MEASURE THE OUTCOME OF THIS PROCESS OF COLLABORATIVE ENQUIRY.+

HEADING THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES UNIT IS MR. P.D. WEYMONT, AN ENGINEER WITH LONG AND VARIED EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT AND AS A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT.

BEFORE TAKING UP THIS NEW APPOINTMENT HE WAS WORKING WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND METHODS GROUP OF THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

HE IS BEING ASSISTED BY FIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS FROM WITHIN P.W.D. PENDING THE RECRUITMENT OF FOUR ASSIGNMENT OFFICERS TO THE PERMANENT STAFF OF THE UNIT.

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TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1974

- 9 -

THE FIRST TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE FOUR POSTS OF CONTRACT ADVISER ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON. THE OFFICES WHICH THESE ADVISERS WILL SERVE ARE THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE AND THE WATERWORKS OFFICE.

ANOTHER MOVE DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE AN IMPORTANT AREA OF P.W.D. OPERATIONS WAS ALSO OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED TODAY.

THIS WAS THE DECISION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH A SCHEME FOR THE COMPUTERISATION OF THE WATERWORKS ACCOUNTING AND BILLING SYSTEM, WHICH WILL RESULT IN A BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE FOR ALL WATER CONSUMERS.

THE SCHEME RESULTS FROM THE COMPUTERISATION SURVEY INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT 12 MONTHS AGO WHEN CONSULTANTS WERE ENGAGED TO STUDY THE APPLICABILITY OF COMPUTER TECHNIQUES TO VARIOUS FIELDS OF P.W.D. ACTIVITY.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW AGREED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO COMPUTERISING WATERWORKS ACCOUNTS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO TAKE FROM ONE AND A HALF TO TWO YEARS.

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SECOND-HAND SCHOOL TEXTBOOK SALE
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A SECOND-HAND SCHOOL TEXTBOOK CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KOWLOON WHERE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED FOR RESALE TO STUDENTS. SECOND-HAND BOOKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM NOW UNTIL AUGUST 3.

AFTER THE BOOKS HAVE BEEN CHECKED AND SORTED THEY WILL BE SOLD TO STUDENTS AT CHEAPER PRICES THAN NEW BOOKS FROM AUGUST 6 TO 17.

TWO SELF-PROGRAMMING GROUPS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE EITHER WORKING YOUTHS OR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT WHICH IS BEING CARRIED OUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE WEST KOWLOON YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL.

THE CENTRE IS LOCATED IN ROOM 101 OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TONG YAM STREET, TAI HANG TUNG, KOWLOON.

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/10

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1974

- 10 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN WANCHAI
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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE JUNCTION OF MARSH ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD, WANCHAI, TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 25), SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES USING THE GROUND LEVEL SECTION OF MARSH ROAD BETWEEN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO LOCKHART ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, WESTBOUND VEHICLES USING LOCKHART ROAD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT AT ITS JUNCTION WITH MARSH ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON JANUARY 9, 1974 ON LEUNG WANG ALIAS LEUNG WING-SANG SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A TERM OF 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

LEUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LAU WA.

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TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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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

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) MODE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.05
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.89
PO NGAI	---	-
CHU CHO	---	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.79
10-15% BROKENS	---	-
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.72
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.50
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.77
<u>U.S. RICE</u>		
	GOOD	1.87
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>		
	GOOD	1.72
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>		
	---	-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>		
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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-	NORMAL
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	310 (AVERAGE)
		/SUPPLIES AND

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	LIMITED	5.80	3.20	4.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.50	0.70	1.80
SQUID	LIMITED	6.00	2.20	4.00
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	4.10	1.30	3.20
CROAKERS	LIMITED	2.50	0.80	1.40
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.60
MELON COAT	LIMITED	2.40	1.60	2.20
BREAMS	SCARCE	5.70	3.00	4.70
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.80	1.20
MACKERELS	--	--	--	--
RED GOAT FISH	SCARCE	1.70	0.50	1.20
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.30	0.60	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	6.80	3.20	5.50
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.50	0.80	1.70
POMFRETS	--	--	--	--
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	10.00	7.50	9.00
YELLOW CROAKER	--	--	--	--

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	SCARCE	2.50	1.00	1.80
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.60	0.50	1.20
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	1.50	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	NORMAL	0.70	0.15	0.50
CHINESE KALE	SCARCE	2.40	1.00	1.80
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	4.50	1.20	2.80
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.40	1.20
SPINACH	--	--	--	--
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.00	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.20	0.30	0.80
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	1.00	0.30	0.70
TOMATO	SCARCE	2.50	1.00	1.80