



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA REACH NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT	1
TEMPORARY WATER INTERRUPTION IN SHAM SHUI PO	2
COMPUTER BALLOT HELD FOR ROYAL VISIT COMMEMORATIVE COINS	3
SWIMMING POOL FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS	4

--- 0 ---

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

- 1 -

NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA
* * * * *

A NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE : KNIT TOPS INCLUDING SHIRTS, BLOUSES, CARDIGANS, PULLOVERS ETC., MEN'S TROUSERS, WOVEN BLOUSES, WOMEN'S WOVEN COATS, WOMEN'S WOVEN NIGHTWEAR AND DRESSES.

THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT LUNCHTIME TODAY AFTER EIGHT DAYS OF TALKS IN HONG KONG BETWEEN AN AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION LED BY MR. JACK FOGARTY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND THE HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY MR. LAWRENCE MILLS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

COMMENTING ON THE AGREEMENT, MR. MILLS SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN REACHED UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE INTERNATIONAL MULTIFIBRE TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, AUSTRALIA HAD TO SHOW THAT TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG WERE CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE MARKET DISRUPTION IN AUSTRALIA AND DAMAGE TO AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE PRODUCERS.

+WE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE EVIDENCE WHICH THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION PUT BEFORE US AND CONCLUDED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MULTIFIBRE TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT WE SHOULD RESTRAIN OUR EXPORTS OF THE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOW CAUGHT WITHIN THE NEW AGREEMENT+, MR. MILLS SAID.

AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, FOUR NEW ITEMS HAVE BEEN MADE SUBJECT TO RESTRAINT, WHILST RESTRAINTS ON FOUR ITEMS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO RESTRAINT WILL BE CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER YEAR. HOWEVER, THE AUSTRALIAN REQUEST FOR QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF TWO OTHER ITEMS WAS REFUSED BY HONG KONG AND THE CURRENT RESTRAINT ON ANOTHER ITEM WILL LAPSE FROM JULY 1, 1975. IT HAS ALSO BEEN POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ITEMS SUBJECT TO EXPORT AUTHORISATION SURVEILLANCE FROM SIX TO THREE.

+ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT LIKE TO SEE RESTRAINTS ON OUR EXPORTS+, MR. MILLS SAID, +I FEEL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED A REASONABLE AGREEMENT ON THE ITEMS WHERE OUR OBLIGATIONS REQUIRE US TO ACCEPT RESTRAINTS. THE PREVIOUS LIMITS HAVE BEEN INCREASED AND THERE ARE HELPFUL FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS WHICH ENABLE HONG KONG TO CARRYOVER UNUSED QUANTITIES INTO A FUTURE PERIOD AND TO INCREASE THE RESTRAINT LEVELS BY TRANSFERRING PRODUCTS FROM ONE CATEGORY INTO ANOTHER. ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY HAS ALSO BEEN SECURED BY SOME RE-GROUPING OF SIMILAR PRODUCTS.

MR. MILLS

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

- 2 -

MR. MILLS SAID THAT THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF ACTION AGAINST TEXTILES FROM ALL SOURCES INCLUDING HONG KONG WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WAS A SEPARATE ISSUE. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD RESERVED ITS RIGHT TO CALL FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND WAS STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO DO SO. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE ITEMS CAUGHT WITHIN THE NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO INCREASED TARIFF QUOTA ACTION BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE AGREEMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER CUT
* * * * *

A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE WITHOUT WATER SUPPLY FOR FIVE HOURS BEGINNING FROM 1 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 10) WHEN WATER WORKS STAFF WILL BE CARRYING OUT A LEAKAGE TEST IN THE AREA.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CHING CHEUNG ROAD, BUTTERFLY VALLEY ROAD, KING LAM STREET, YEE KUK STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YU CHAU STREET AND WING MING STREET.

- - - - 0 - - - -

13

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

- 3 -

COMPUTER BALLOT HELD FOR ROYAL VISIT GOLD COINS.
* * * * *

A BALLOT BY COMPUTER HAS BEEN HELD TO DETERMINE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF ROYAL VISIT COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COINS, AND APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY AFTER NEXT WEEK.

SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF THE 20,000 GOLD COINS MINTED WILL BE ALLOCATED TO HONG KONG APPLICANTS -- CONSISTING OF 8,200 UNCIRCULATED AND 2,500 PROOF COINS.

AS THE ISSUE HAS BEEN HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED, NO APPLICANT WILL BE ALLOTTED MORE THAN ONE COIN. APPLICATIONS FOR 9,191 PROOF AND 20,802 UNCIRCULATED COINS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN APPLICATIONS CLOSED ON APRIL 28 -- NEARLY 10,000 MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM 20,000 COINS MINTED (5,000 PROOF AND 15,000 UNCIRCULATED).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT PROCESSING OF THE BALLOT RESULTS WAS GOING AHEAD AT TOP SPEED BUT BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK INVOLVED APPLICANTS WERE UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE ANY NOTIFICATION BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

THE FINAL CONSIGNMENT OF UNCIRCULATED COINS SHOULD ARRIVE THIS WEEK, HE SAID, BUT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR PROOF COINS MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE BEFORE RECEIVING THEIR COINS.

CHEQUES IN RESPECT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT DURING THE NEXT FOURTEEN DAYS. +THIS PERIOD IS NECESSARILY LONG AS SUCCESSFUL PROOF APPLICANTS WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW THEIR APPLICATIONS IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE BEFORE RECEIVING A COIN,+ HE SAID.

WHERE NECESSARY, HE ADDED, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO REFUND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF A CHEQUE AND THE COST OF THE COIN ALLOCATED. CHEQUES SUPPORTING UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4.....

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

- 4 -

SWIMMING POOL FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS

* * * * *

PREVENTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN SWIMMING POOL AT THEIR TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG.

THE POOL, MEASURING 52' BY 24' WILL BE USED FOR TRAINING AS WELL AS RECREATIONAL PURPOSES BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE.

IT WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY MR. J.L. MARDEN, ON SATURDAY (MAY 10). THE EARLY OPENING OF THE POOL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A \$30,000 DONATION FROM THE MARDEN FOUNDATION LTD TO MEET HALF THE COST OF THE POOL, THE OTHER HALF BEING MET BY A GRANT FROM THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE SOCIAL WELFARE FUND.

A GOVERNOR OF THE FOUNDATION, MR. MARDEN HAS ALWAYS SHOWN KEEN INTEREST IN THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS FAMILY'S CONNECTIONS WITH THE FORMER CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS.

TO MARK THE OPENING, THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE WILL GIVE A DISPLAY OF LIFE SAVING TECHNIQUES AND DIVING EQUIPMENT. THEY WILL ALSO ENTERTAIN GUESTS TO A SWIMMING COMPETITION BETWEEN OFFICERS OF THE AIRPORT, EXCISE, HARBOUR AND INVESTIGATION DIVISIONS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY, MAY 10. A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 2011) WILL TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SCHOOL. IT WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 10.30 AM SHARP. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -