



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1974

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USE OF RESERVES +ENTIRELY UP TO HONG KONG+ --
HK COMMISSIONER TELLS LONDON MEETING

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MR. S.T. KIDD, THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER, TOLD AN AUDIENCE AT THE ROYAL OVERSEAS LEAGUE, LONDON, LAST (MONDAY) NIGHT, THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY HONG KONG'S OWN DECISION WHETHER OR NOT IT KEPT ITS STERLING BALANCES IN LONDON.

+IN THIS MATTER,+ SAID MR. KIDD, +WE ARE UNDER NO CONSTRAINT FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.+

THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER AT A DISCUSSION ON +HONG KONG TODAY+ AT THE LEAGUE'S LONDON HEADQUARTERS. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE, MR. PHILIP CRAWSHAW, WAS IN THE CHAIR.

MR. KIDD DESCRIBED HONG KONG'S GROWTH AS A MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, AND WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE TERRITORY.

MR. KIDD SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS STILL EXPOSED TO A CONSTANT STREAM OF IMMIGRATION, BOTH FROM CHINA AND THE REST OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA - THE NET GAIN IN 1973, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS RECKONED AT OVER 60,000, OF WHICH THE BULK CAME FROM CHINA, LEGALLY OR ILLEGALLY:

EVEN THOUGH FACILITIES FOR FAMILY PLANNING WERE BEING RAPIDLY EXPANDED, AND THE BIRTH RATE HAD DECLINED BY A HALF BETWEEN 1963 AND 1973, IT COULD TRULY BE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S GREATEST PROBLEM REMAINED +A PROBLEM OF PEOPLE'.

+TO ILLUSTRATE THE CONSEQUENCES,+ SAID MR. KIDD, +I NEED ONLY SAY THAT IN AN AVERAGE YEAR AND BY A PRODIGIOUS HOUSING PROGRAMME, WE REHOUSE OVER 100,000 PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR SUBSIDISED HOUSING, BUT AT THE PRESENT RATE OF IMMIGRATION, THE EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE SUB-STANDARD HOUSING IS BEING CONTINUALLY ERODED BY EVENTS VERY LARGELY BEYOND OUR OWN CONTROL.

+PERHAPS, HOWEVER, YOU CAN APPRECIATE WHY WE ARE NOT ALWAYS AS RECEPTIVE AS OUR CRITICS THINK WE SHOULD BE WHEN FRESH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE DISCOVERED IN TIME FOR THEM TO BE RETURNED TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN.+

TURNING TO FINANCIAL MATTERS, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT HONG KONG HAD HITHERTO BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE COST OF ITS CAPITAL AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE OUT OF REVENUE. INDEED, THE PHYSICAL CAPABILITY TO SPEND MONEY, RATHER THAN BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, HAD BEEN THE LIMITING FACTOR UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.

/THE AVAILABILITY

THE AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS FUNDS OVER THE PAST DECADE OR MORE HAD RESULTED IN THE BUILDING UP OF FINANCIAL RESERVES, INCLUDING THE RESERVES HELD IN LONDON. APART FROM PROVIDING BACKING FOR ITS CURRENCY, THESE STERLING RESERVES HAD EARNED HONG KONG ADDITIONAL REVENUE. BUT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ASSUME THAT BECAUSE IT WAS AMONG THE LARGEST HOLDERS OF STERLING BALANCES HONG KONG HAD BECOME AS WEALTHY AS CERTAIN MIDDLE EASTERN STATES. IN FACT, ITS CURRENT RESERVES REPRESENTED NO MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF ITS CURRENT ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

MOREOVER, DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS ALONE ITS PROJECTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WOULD REQUIRE IT TO FIND A FURTHER \$2,000 MILLION, WHETHER BY WAY OF INCREASED TAXATION OR BY RAISING FOREIGN LOANS, QUITE APART FROM THE USE OF ITS RESERVES TO OFFSET THE DEFICIT ANTICIPATED ON ITS CURRENT BUDGET.

+I SHOULD ADD+ SAID MR. KIDD +THAT IT IS ENTIRELY OUR OWN DECISION WHETHER OR NOT WE KEEP OUR STERLING BALANCES IN LONDON, AND IN THIS MATTER WE ARE UNDER NO CONSTRAINT FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.+

MR. KIDD CONCLUDED: +IT MAY WELL BE THAT OUR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT OUR CONTINUING PROSPERITY BASED UPON OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADING POSITION WILL BE CONFOUNDED. BUT IF THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE, IT WILL BE IN SPITE OF THE UNREMITTING EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHOSE VERSATILITY, ENTHUSIASM, AND CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN FUTURE HAS ALREADY CARRIED THEM THROUGH CRISES WHICH WOULD HAVE DAUNTED A LESS ENERGETIC COMMUNITY.+

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GOVERNOR TO PRESENT INSIGNIA
TO 54 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIFTY-FOUR HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WERE DECORATED BY THE QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY WILL RECEIVE THEIR INSIGNIA FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE INSIGNIA INCLUDE TWO C.B.E.'S, FIVE O.B.E.'S, ONE I.S.O., TWO M.B.E.'S (M), SIX M.B.E.'S, AND ONE M.B.E. (H).

COPIES OF A LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THE INSIGNIA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE PRESS ROOM, G.I.S. SIXTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, AT 11.30 A.M. TOMORROW.

ONLY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE GUARD ROOM OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NOT LATER THAN 11 A.M. G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THEM.

NEWSPAPERS NOT RECEIVING PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS IN THE ORDINARY WAY WITH FRANCIS WU STUDIO, GLOUCESTER BUILDING, AT 2-224500.

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CROWN LAND SALE

SEVEN LOTS OF CROWN LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA OF MORE THAN 102,700 SQUARE FEET WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH.

FOUR OF THEM ARE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE LARGEST ONE, MEASURING 26,770 SQUARE FEET, LOCATED OFF TAI TAM ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND. TWO OTHERS ARE SITUATED OFF CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD WITH AREAS OF 21,170 SQUARE FEET AND 11,500 SQUARE FEET. THE OTHER RESIDENTIAL LOT COVERS 16,500 SQUARE FEET OFF CHAI WAN ROAD. SALE OF THIS LOT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 18 BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS.

OF THE REMAINING LOTS, TWO ARE FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN PURPOSES WHILE THE OTHER -- A SMALL ONE OF SOME 760 SQUARE FEET AT 810 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON -- IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE.

THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL LOT COVERS AN AREA OF 14,670 SQUARE FEET AT THE JUNCTION OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD, NAM LONG SHAN ROAD AND HEUNG YIP ROAD IN ABERDEEN. THE OTHER IS OFF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD AND MEASURES 11,400 SQUARE FEET.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON NOVEMBER 29 IN THE CITY HALL LECTURE ROOM.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG, AND FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 A.M. TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 53,735 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 79.8 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,500 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 60,447 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 37,207 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 47,029 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 73.7 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

1.4 MM (0.06 IN) OF 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 2,100.8 MM (82.71 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,102.9 MM (82.79 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 0.10 PER CENT.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1974

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HONG KONG WORKERS STILL IN DEMAND OVERSEAS

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THERE IS STILL A DEMAND IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES FOR HONG KONG WORKERS DESPITE A DROP IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS GOING ABROAD IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, 798 WORKERS WENT ABROAD DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH 706 IN 1972-73, 1,057 IN 1971-72 AND 2,134 IN 1970-71.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE MORE THAN 4,000 HONG KONG WORKERS EMPLOYED OVERSEAS OTHER THAN THE UNITED KINGDOM. A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM ARE EMPLOYED AS BAKERS, COOKS, BLACKSMITHS, CARPENTERS, LAUNDERS AND MECHANICS IN NAURU, OCEAN ISLAND, BRUNEI, SABAH, BRITISH SOLOMAN ISLAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, WEST GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS.

OF THESE, ABOUT 1,360 ARE UNDER NEW CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE. THE REMAINING WORKERS ARE UNDER RE-ENGAGEMENT CONTRACTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SINCE THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, +OVER 16,000 MANUAL WORKERS HAVE TAKEN UP EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS. ABOUT HALF OF THEM HAVE BEEN RE-ENGAGED.+

HE ADDED, HOWEVER: +UNLESS WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ARE PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE, IT IS NOT EASY TO RECRUIT HONG KONG WORKERS FOR EMPLOYMENT ABROAD.+

THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE IN 1965, AIMS TO PROTECT LOCAL WORKERS TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT OVERSEAS. MANUAL WORKERS PROCEEDING OVERSEAS FOR EMPLOYMENT ARE URGED TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THEIR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE PURPOSE OF A CONTRACT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WAS TO SAFEGUARD THE WORKERS' INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING.

THE CONTRACT MUST BE ATTESTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, PRIOR TO THE WORKERS' DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED HOWEVER THAT THE COMMISSIONER HAD THE POWER TO REFUSE TO ATTEST A CONTRACT IF THE TERMS IN IT WERE UNFAIR TO THE EMPLOYEE.

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HONG KONG TO HOST INTERNATIONAL TRADE SEMINAR

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EXPERTS FROM MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS WAYS OF FURTHER STREAMLINING INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION.

HONG KONG IS REGARDED AS A FITTING PLACE FOR THE TWO-DAY (NOVEMBER 13 AND 14) MEETING BECAUSE OF ITS POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITHIN THE FAR EAST AND BECAUSE OF THE STRIDES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SIMPLIFYING AND RATIONALISING DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES.

DELEGATES FROM MORE THAN 10 COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, BRITAIN, JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, FRANCE, THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (EEC), THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP), THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMITTEE (IMC), ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING CALLED THE HONG KONG FAR EAST TRADE FACILITATION SEMINAR. +

IT IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE, AN ADVISORY BODY FORMED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, MR. IAN TOMLIN, POINTS OUT THAT THERE IS A GROWING APPRECIATION AMONG INTERNATIONAL TRADE FORUMS OF THE NEED TO STANDARDISE AND SIMPLIFY TRADE PROCEDURES ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

+THE NEED ALSO ARISES BECAUSE OF TODAY'S FASTER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, + MR. TOMLIN ADDED.

ONE OF HONG KONG'S RECENT EFFORTS IN HELPING TO CUT DOWN TIME-CONSUMING PAPER WORK IS SEEN IN THE PUBLICATION +HOW TO USE SIMPLER TRADE DOCUMENTS. +

THE BROCHURE ADVOCATES THE ADOPTION OF THE +ONE-RUN+ SYSTEM BY EXPORTERS TO MECHANISE THEIR PAPER WORK IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE REPETITIVE TYPING AND CHECKING OF INFORMATION.

BY ADOPTING THIS SYSTEM, SOME COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN SAVINGS OF UP TO 70 PER CENT IN THE COST OF PREPARING AND PROCESSING DOCUMENTS.

MR. TOMLIN SAYS THAT THE SEMINAR WILL PROVIDE THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS WITH A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY OF EXCHANGING IDEAS AND OF WORKING OUT COMMON POLICIES BENEFICIAL TO ALL.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION OF DATA TRANSMISSION - DIRECT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO HONG KONG - USING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNIQUES.

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, WILL OPEN THE SEMINAR AND WILL SPEAK ON THE OCCASION.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1974

LATEST POSTING FOR CHRISTMAS SURFACE MAIL
TO HAWAII AND AUSTRALIA ADVANCED
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT DUE TO SHIPPING PROBLEMS OUTSIDE ITS CONTROL, IT WAS FORCED TO BRING FORWARD THE LATEST ACCEPTANCE DATE FOR CHRISTMAS MAIL AND PARCELS BY SURFACE FOR HAWAII AND AUSTRALIA.

THE REVISED DATES ARE NOW NOVEMBER 9 FOR CHRISTMAS SEA MAIL AND PARCELS FOR HAWAII, AND NOVEMBER 11 FOR AUSTRALIA.

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THE COMMITTEE...
THERE IS A GROWING...
THE NEED TO...
THE NEED ALSO...
ONE OF THE...
THE BROCHURE...
SYSTEM BY...
ELIMINATE...
UP TO 20...
MR. TORCH...
COUNTRIES...
EXCHANGING...
A HIGHLIGHT...
OF DATA...
AND USING...
THE DIRECTOR...
THE SEMINAR...

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	2.02
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.86
PO NGAI		-
CHU CHO		-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.78
10-15% BROKENS		-
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.66
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.41
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.75
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.82
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>		-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>		-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

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	GOOD	6.50	2.00	4.20
BIG-EYES	NORMAL	3.20	1.50	2.30
SQUID	NORMAL	5.50	1.60	3.50
HAIR-TAILS	LIMITED	3.20	1.20	2.20
LIZARD FISHES	GOOD	4.60	1.70	3.20
CROAKERS	NORMAL	3.20	1.50	2.30
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	3.60	2.00	3.00
MELON COAT	LIMITED	4.00	1.60	2.80
BREAMS	SCARCE	8.50	5.00	7.10
YELLOW BELLY	LIMITED	2.20	1.20	1.70
MACKERELS	SCARCE	5.80	4.50	5.00
RED GOAT FISH	SCARCE	1.60	0.60	1.00
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.50	0.60	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.00	3.00	4.50
MELON SEED	LIMITED	3.50	2.40	3.00
POMFRETS	SCARCE	10.00	7.50	8.50
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	13.00	7.00	9.00
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	8.50	5.50	7.00

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	3.00	1.00	2.20
WHITE CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.40
CHINESE LETTUCE	SCARCE	2.50	0.80	1.60
WATER SPINACH	---			
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	2.80	1.00	2.20
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	2.40	1.50	2.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	SCARCE	3.50	1.20	2.50
WATER CRESS	SCARCE	3.50	1.50	2.50
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	SCARCE	2.00	0.60	1.40
CHINESE SPINACH	---			
TOMATO	SCARCE	4.00	2.00	3.00