



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1974.

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1974.

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AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON CARMEN
\$1 MILLION MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP VICTIMS
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THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IS MAKING AVAILABLE \$1 MILLION FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND TO AID VICTIMS OF TYPHOON CARMEN.

THE MONEY WILL BE PAID TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION FOR COMPENSATING LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK AND CROPS, DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION TO PROPERTY SUCH AS SQUATTER HUTS, AND FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH DOMESTIC RE-ACCOMMODATION OF VICTIMS.

MEANWHILE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS CONTINUING TO SUPPLY MEALS TO 53 VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR HOMES.

THE VICTIMS ARE STILL ACCOMMODATED IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS IN BLOCK 11 OF CHAI WAN ESTATE, THE DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE YAUMATI KAIFONG ASSOCIATION PREMISES, AND A FLATTED FACTORY IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED WITH OTHER EMERGENCY RELIEF MATERIAL AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FOOD FOR AT LEAST A MONTH OR UNTIL THEY CAN MANAGE ON THEIR OWN AGAIN.

THIS AFTERNOON, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REGISTERED EIGHT FAMILIES COMPRISING 46 PEOPLE (20 MEN, 13 WOMEN AND 13 CHILDREN) WHO HAD TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES ON THE 3RD FLOOR AND ROOFTOP OF NO. 450 PORTLAND STREET, KOWLOON FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF A CLOSURE ORDER AS A RESULT OF A PARTIAL COLLAPSE THERE LAST NIGHT.

DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE TYPHOON WHEN MANY PEOPLE SOUGHT REFUGE IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS, MANY STUDENTS AND YOUNG VOLUNTEERS RESPONDED TO HELP IN RELIEF WORK.

AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHERE AT ONE TIME 168 PEOPLE TOOK SHELTER, A GROUP OF 14 VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CENTRE'S SERVICE GROUP LENT ASSISTANCE. FOUR FAMILIES (16 PEOPLE) WHO LOST THEIR HOMES IN KWUN TONG ARE STILL THERE.

IN CHAI WAN, 23 YOUTHS FROM THREE VOLUNTEER GROUPS ASSISTED THE VICTIMS OF THE LICENSED AREA WHICH WAS FLOODED. TOMORROW, 50 OF THEM WILL VISIT THE AREA AGAIN AT 4 P.M. TO HELP IN CLEAN UP OPERATIONS.

MEANWHILE,

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DAMAGE TO CROPS

MEANWHILE, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP 16 REGISTRATION CENTRES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO REGISTER THE LOSSES OF FARMERS CAUSED BY TYPHOON CARMEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID REGISTRATION WILL GO ON UNTIL FRIDAY (OCTOBER 25) EXCEPT DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS ON WEDNESDAY.

APPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION GRANTS FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THIS WEEK.

COMMENTING ON DAMAGES TO CROPS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE WORST HIT AREA WAS SHEUNG SHUI, WHERE FLOODING, WHICH LASTED TWO DAYS, AFFECTED SOME 800 DAUCHUNG OF VEGETABLE LAND. (NOTE: 6 DAUCHUNG EQUALS ONE ACRE).

THE TOTAL AREA AFFECTED BY FLOODING THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS 2,755 DAUCHUNG. FOR THE MAIN PART, FLOODING IN THE NT'S LASTED MAINLY BETWEEN THREE TO FIVE HOURS.

ABOUT 7,370 DAUCHUNG OF VEGETABLES WERE DAMAGED DURING THE TYPHOON. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SEEDLINGS AND 40 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LEAFY VEGETABLES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE AFFECTED BY THE STORM.

IN ADDITION, ABOUT 540 DAUCHUNG OF FLOWER BEDS WERE DAMAGED BY FLOODING AND GALES.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT SOME 1,950 DAUCHUNG OF RICE PADDIES WERE AFFECTED. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EXACT DAMAGE TO CROPS COULD NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL THE FLOOD WATERS HAVE COMPLETELY RECEDED FROM THE PADDY FIELDS.

LOSSES AND DAMAGE TO POULTRY WERE COMPARATIVELY LESS. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN ABOUT 3,200 CHICKENS WERE DROWNED -- 200 IN KAM TIN AND 3,000 IN FANLING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT APART FROM THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO CROPS, TYPHOON CARMEN COULD BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL TO FARMERS IN THAT SHE BROUGHT MUCH-NEEDED WATER TO THE ALMOST DRIED-UP WELLS FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES DURING THE DRY WINTER MONTHS AHEAD.

REGARDING FISHERIES, THE LOSS OF POND FISH WAS NOT GREAT ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED SO FAR. HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXTENT OF LOSSES COULD ONLY BE KNOWN UNTIL MORE DETAILED REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM TEAMS NOW VISITING VARIOUS FISHING CENTRES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ONLY ONE 37-FOOT SHRIMP TRAWLER WAS REPORTED SUNK IN TAI PO, AND THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

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LAI SING COURT

IN THE MEANTIME, SURVEYORS FROM THE BUILDING ORDINANCE OFFICE ARE CARRYING OUT AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION ON THE SLOPE BEHIND LAI SING COURT IN TAI HANG ROAD WHERE A LANDSLIDE OCCURRED EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNING.

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS IN TWO BLOCKS OF BUILDING WERE EVACUATED FOLLOWING THE LANDSLIDE.

IN AN INTERVIEW AT THE SCENE THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, MR. EDWARD KENNARD, PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A DECISION COULD BE REACHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE RESIDENTS COULD HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE POSITION THEY WERE IN.

+AS THE SITUATION NOW STANDS,+ MR. KENNARD SAID, +THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER LANDSLIDES THERE.+

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE LANDSLIDES AND REMEDIAL WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

MEANWHILE, AN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER WAS ISSUED AT 9.30 AM AT VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT TODAY FOR THE TWO BUILDINGS. HOWEVER, RESIDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN ON A RESTRICTED BASIS DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE POLICE TO RECOVER THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN), MR. STEPHEN HO, ANNOUNCED THAT A LIAISON CENTRE WOULD BE SET UP IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING TOMORROW TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT THERE. THE CENTRE WILL OPERATE FROM 11 AM TO 5 PM.

INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE PASSED TO CDO'S MAIN OFFICE AT 28-32 KING'S ROAD FOR DISSEMINATION TO TENANTS OF THE BUILDING.

TENANTS WHO WISH TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS SERVICE ARE ASKED TO LEAVE WITH THE CDO THEIR CONTACTING TELEPHONE NUMBERS. INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THEM BY TELEPHONE AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

DURING OFFICE HOURS, TENANTS MAY ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION BY TELEPHONING 5-712658, 5-706960 AND 5-706579.

/TYPHOON CARMEN

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AFFECT ON ESTATES

TYPHOON CARMEN VIRTUALLY DID NO DAMAGE TO HONG KONG'S 52 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND VERY MINIMAL DAMAGE TO THE 27 LICENSED AREAS.

DURING THE PASSAGE OF THE TYPHOON, RESIDENTS OF CHAI WAN LICENSED AREA 3 HAD TO LEAVE THEIR HUTS TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF EXCEPTIONAL HIGH TIDE. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WERE AT THE SCENE EARLY FIRDAY MORNING TO GIVE WARNING TO THE RESIDENTS AND TO ASSIST THEM TO MOVE OUT LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY OF THE RESIDENTS TOOK SHELTER AT THE CHAI WAN POLICE POST AT BLOCK 12 AND AT THE TEMPORARY TYPHOON SHELTER AT BLOCK 13. OTHERS HAD CHOSEN TO STAY WITH THEIR RELATIVES OR FRIENDS. MOST OF THEM RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AFTER THE STORM SIGNAL NO. 8 WAS LOWERED LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

FIVE HUTS IN THE AREA, SOME UNOCCUPIED, WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AND 12 SLIGHTLY AFFECTED. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARE MAKING A THOROUGH INSPECTION OF THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE AT THE SITE THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

TWO SQUATTER HUTS AT SAM KAR CHUEN WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY THE STRONG WINDS. BUT THE DAMAGE WAS LATER FOUND TO BE NEGLIGIBLE.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE STORM, ABOUT 100 RESIDENTS OF THE LICENSED AREA TOOK SHELTER AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE. THEY HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.

ALSO SLIGHTLY AFFECTED BY THE STORM WAS THE YAN OI LICENSED AREA. FOUR HUTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

STAFF OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ARE MEANWHILE MAKING A CHECK ON ALL LICENSED AREAS TO SEE WHAT OTHER DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE. GRANTS FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND WILL BE TAKEN OUT TO HELP THE LICENSEES REBUILD OR REPAIR THEIR HUTS IF THE NEED ARISES.

ROADS

ONLY TWO ROADS -- SHEK PAI WAN ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE UNNAMED ROAD BETWEEN LUK KENG AND TAI MEI TUK IN TAI PO -- REMAINED CLOSED AS A RESULT OF A ROAD SUBSIDENCE AND A LANDSLIDE DURING TYPHOON CARMEN. REPAIR WORK IS CONTINUING.

NEAR SHA TIN, THE LION ROCK TUNNEL APPROACH ROAD WHICH WAS PARTIALLY BLOCKED BY A LANDSLIDE, IS OPEN TO SINGLE-LANE TRAFFIC ONLY. P.W.D. WORKERS ARE CLEARING THE ROAD OF ROCKS AND EARTH AND IT IS HOPED THAT IT CAN BE OPENED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC LATER TODAY.

ALL OTHER ROADS ARE OPEN TO NORMAL TRAFFIC.

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24-HOUR WATER SUPPLY TO CONTINUE FOR TIME BEING
BUT RESTRICTIONS CANNOT BE WHOLLY RULED OUT YET

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. BILL KNIGHT, DECIDED THIS MORNING NOT TO REIMPOSE THE STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR THE TIME BEING AND TO KEEP FULL SUPPLIES ON FOR NOW.

BUT HE ADDED A WARNING THAT WHILE THE WATER STORAGE SITUATION HAD IMPROVED VERY SUBSTANTIALLY AS A RESULT OF THE TYPHOON, A REIMPOSITION OF SOME LEVEL OF RESTRICTIONS COULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

MR. KNIGHT TOOK THIS DECISION IN VIEW OF THE WATER LEVELS REPORTED EARLY THIS MORNING. ALL RESERVOIRS, WITH THE VERY IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF PLOVER COVE, WERE THEN FULL OR NEARLY FULL. PLOVER COVE, HONG KONG'S LARGEST RESERVOIR AND A KEY FACTOR IN SUPPLIES, WAS STILL ONLY ABOUT 60 PER CENT FULL.

THE PHASE 2 RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN KEPT LIFTED OVER THE WEEKEND BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING SEVERE WEATHER LATE ON SATURDAY AND THROUGHOUT SUNDAY. FULL SUPPLY WAS KEPT ON BECAUSE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULTY IN RESVERING SUPPLY IF RESTRICTIONS WAS THEN BEEN RUN BACK ON.

AS REGARDS A DECISION ON WHAT RESTRICTIONS MAY NOW BE NEEDED OVER THE WINTER, MR. KNIGHT SAID THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

+THE DECISION,+ HE SAID, +WILL BE REACHED WITH ALL SPEED - BUT I MUST ASK EVERYONE TO BE PATIENT FOR A SHORT WHILE, SINCE WE HAVE TO RECALCULATE THE SUPPLY PROSPECTS ON THE BASIS OF A COMPLETELY NEW STORAGE PATTERN. AND THE FULL YIELD FROM THE STORE IS NOT YET KNOWN SINCE THE RUN OF IS CONTINUING.

+WHILE WE ARE NATURALLY VERY PLEASED WITH THE INCREASE, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE TOTAL STORAGE AS REPORTED YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) OF ABOUT 45,000 MILLION GALLONS WAS EXCEEDED BY STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE ALONE THIS TIME LAST YEAR.+

MR. KNIGHT ALSO ADDED THAT WHATEVER THE DECISION REACHED ON RESTRICTIONS THE NEED TO SAVE WATER, AND TO AVOID ALL WASTE, WOULD CONTINUE.

+WASTE IS INEXCUSABLE,+ MR. KNIGHT SAID, +IN GOOD TIMES OR BAD.+

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WATER SITUATION REPORT

THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47,503 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 70.6 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY, OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THERE WERE 62,708 MILLION GALLONS IN STORE.

THIS MORNING'S STORAGE AT PLOVER COVE WAS 31,088 MILLION GALLONS, COMPARED WITH 48,440 MILLION GALLONS ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR. PLOVER COVE'S PRESENT STORAGE REPRESENTS 61.6 PER CENT OF ITS FULL CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS.

83.2 MM (3.28 IN) RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 1,855.2 MM (73.04 IN).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 STANDS AT 2,071.2 MM (81.54 IN), REPRESENTING A SHORTFALL OF 18.4 PER CENT.

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RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
KAIFONG MOVEMENT

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL ATTEND A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE KAIFONG DAY TO BE HELD AT THE GARDEN RESTAURANT, CITY HALL AT 5 P.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

ABOUT 400 LEADERS FROM THE VARIOUS KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS FROM HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AS WELL AS HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL ATTEND.

SIR MURRAY WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING AND PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE KAIFONG MOVEMENT.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OCCASION.

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EXPERT TEAM SET UP TO MAP OUT COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING PROGRAMME
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EVERY HONG KONG FAMILY DREAMS OF THE DAY THEY CAN HAVE A DECENT HOME AT A RENTAL OR PRICE THEY CAN AFFORD.

HOW CAN THEIR DREAMS BE REALISED? WHAT CAN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DO TO HELP? IN WHAT WAYS AND BY WHAT MEANS CAN THIS ULTIMATE TARGET BE ACHIEVED?

A PLANNING TEAM HAS BEEN SET UP TO SEEK THE ANSWERS TO THESE AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS. IT WILL WORK UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, AND MEMBERS WILL CONSIST OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES TOGETHER WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION AND A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FINANCE BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT.

THE PLANNING TEAM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING A PROGRAMME PLAN ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HOUSING, BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

IT WILL EVALUATE CURRENT PRODUCTION EFFORTS AS WELL AS THE DEMAND FOR HOUSING, EXAMINE VARIOUS WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE PROJECTED HOUSING OBJECTIVES AND RELATE THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES TO OVERALL TARGETS. THIS WILL ALSO INCLUDE UPDATING THE LONG-TERM PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME BASED ON THE LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

+THIS WILL MEAN A SYSTEMATIC AND THOROUGH LOOK AT HOUSING PRODUCTION, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR OR REDEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING DWELLINGS, THE ELIMINATION OF HOUSING THAT CAN'T BE MADE HABITABLE, PROPER BUILDING MANAGEMENT, INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS, MORTGAGE FINANCE, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, HOME OWNERSHIP AND OTHER RELATED TOPICS,+ AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE EMPHASIS WILL NOT JUST BE ON BUILDING FLATS BUT RATHER ON THE CREATION OF COMMUNITIES IN A DECENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT.+

HE ADDED THAT THE PLAN WILL BE REVIEWED REGULARLY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGING CONDITIONS.

HEADING THE TEAM WILL BE MR. THOMAS LIMNA, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MANAGEMENT) OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT WHO IS VERY EXPERIENCED IN PREPARING SUCH PLANS.

/CO-LEADER OF

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CO-LEADER OF THE TEAM FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS WILL BE MR. ROGER HOLLAND, A MCKINSEY CONSULTANT, WHO WILL ADVISE ON THE METHODOLOGY OF THE PLAN.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WILL BE MRS. ELAINE CHIA OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT= DR. C.M. LUK, STATISTICIAN OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT= AND MR. WONG CHUN SHIU, SENIOR SURVEYOR OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT. IT IS HOPED ALSO TO SECURE THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERIENCED MEMBER OF THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

+THE TEAM WILL BE REINFORCED FROM TIME TO TIME AS REQUIRED AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL OF COURSE BE VERY HAPPILY INVOLVED IN THIS EXERCISE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SEPTEMBER G.C.P.I. REMAINS STABLE
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THE GENERAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER WAS 187, THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINK AND TOBACCO ADVANCED BY SEVEN POINTS, MAINLY AS A RESULT OF THE UPWARD REVISION IN THE PRICES OF SOME BRANDS OF CIGARETTES.

SLIGHT INCREASES OF ONE POINT EACH WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND THE INDEX FOR SERVICES.

THESE INCREASES WERE OFFSET BY THE FRACTIONAL DECREASE IN THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS, WHICH, WHEN ROUNDED OFF, REMAINED UNCHANGED. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SALT WATER FISH, FRESH WATER FISH, DRIED SEA PRODUCTS, PORK, BEEF AND POULTRY DECLINED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES ADVANCED DUE TO A SEASONAL DROP IN LOCAL SUPPLY.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR OTHER SECTIONS OF COMMODITY WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT OPENS TWO NEW OFFICES

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THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS OPENING TWO NEW OFFICES TODAY ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE NEW OFFICE AT 324 SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, 4TH FLOOR, HONG KONG WILL CATER FOR INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND, FROM WAN CHAI TO CHAI WAN. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 5-697432.

THE OTHER OFFICE AT 52 PO HEUNG STREET, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK A, HEI WAN BUILDING, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES WILL SERVE ALL INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN SHATIN, TAIPO, FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI AND SHA.TAU KOK. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 12-662822.

THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT IS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (AGED 14-17) IN INDUSTRY.

THE LAW RULES THAT WORKING HOURS FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST NOT EXCEED EIGHT HOURS A DAY AND 48 HOURS A WEEK. IT ALSO LAYS DOWN CONDITIONS ON THEIR GENERAL WELFARE RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF REST ROOMS AND SITTING FACILITIES, REST-DAYS AND RESTRICTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN DANGEROUS TRADES.

THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNIT OPERATES A TOTAL OF 11 OFFICES IN ALL MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THERE ARE SIX OFFICES IN KOWLOON SERVING SHAM SHUI PO, CHEUNG SHA WAN, YAU MA TEI, TO KWA WAN, SAN PO KONG AND KWUN TONG= THREE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OPERATING FROM TSUEN WAN, YUEN LONG AND TAI PO AND TWO ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

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HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 23) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON THAT DATE, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

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GOVERNOR THANKS VOLUNTEERS IN MAKING
THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME A SUCCESS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS ISSUED A PERSONAL MESSAGE OF THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 1974 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

IN HIS MESSAGE, THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE PROGRAMME AS A +SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR+, WHICH PROVIDED A DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE.

THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 30,000 VOLUNTEERS HELPED IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

+NOW THAT THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME FOR 1974 HAS DRAWN TO A CLOSE, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING IT SUCH A GREAT SUCCESS.

THE PROGRAMME THIS YEAR HAS PROVIDED A DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE. IT HAS ENLISTED THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF NUMEROUS YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, WELFARE BODIES, SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT GROUPS. THE ARMED FORCES AND MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE, AS BEFORE, RENDERED INVALUABLE SUPPORT. MORE THAN 30,000 VOLUNTEERS HAVE HELPED IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVENTS. THE ROYAL H.K. JOCKEY CLUB'S CONTINUED SUPPORT AND VERY GENEROUS DONATION HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN GIVING THE PROGRAMME ITS SIZE AND VARIETY.

OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS, THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME HAS EXPANDED AND BECOME A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHARE MY APPRECIATION OF THE VALUE OF THIS PROGRAMME AND THAT THEY JOIN ME IN APPLAUDING WHAT IT DOES FOR OUR YOUTH.+

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CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL FIRE WARNING
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THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL THIS WEDNESDAY WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY APPEALED TO INTENDING PICNICKERS AND INCENSE BURNERS TO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID STARTING FIRES.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE HOLIDAY WAS USUALLY ONE OF THE BUSIEST DAYS OF THE YEAR FOR FIREMEN, RESULTING FROM THE NORMAL MASS EXODUS OUT OF DOORS.

+WE ANSWERED DOZENS OF HILL AND FOREST FIRE CALLS LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID. +HUNDREDS OF TREES WERE DESTROYED AND LARGE AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE SPOILT, ALL UNNECESSARILY. BY WARNING PEOPLE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL, WE HOPE TO PREVENT THE SAME THING HAPPENING THIS YEAR.+

FAILURE TO TAKE A FEW COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS WAS AT THE ROOT OF MOST OF THE FIRES, HE SAID, CITING AS EXAMPLES DISPOSAL OF CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES WHEN STILL ALIGHT, LACK OF CONTROL OF BARBECUE FIRES OR NOT ENSURING THAT THEY ARE EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE AREA, AND INCENSE BURNERS BEING CARELESS WITH LIGHTED PAPER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT, DESPITE TYPHOON CARMEN, THE RISK OF FIRE WAS STILL HIGH AND EVERYONE VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE HOLIDAY SHOULD TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE. +IT IS A MATTER OF SIMPLY BEING CAREFUL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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JULY ACCOUNTS SHOW \$106 MILLION DEFICIT
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THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1974 SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$106 MILLION, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$10 MILLION IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THE DEFICIT WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASED SPENDING ON PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS AND TO ACCELERATED PROGRESS, PERMITTED BY THE DRY SUMMER, ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

THE RESULT IS AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF \$388 MILLION FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$398 MILLION WAS \$26 MILLION MORE THAN JULY 1973. TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT \$504 MILLION WAS \$122 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (MONDAY) 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 | 1.82 |
| 10-15% BROKENS | GOOD | 1.65 |
| A1 SUPER EXTRA | GOOD | 1.70 |
| A1 SUPER | GOOD | 1.45 |
| WHOLE GLUTINOUS | GOOD | 1.75 |
| U.S. RICE | | |
| | GOOD | 1.92 |
| AUSTRALIAN RICE | | |
| | GOOD | 1.74 |
| PAKISTAN RICE | | |
| | GOOD | - |
| TAIWAN RICE | | |
| | GOOD | - |

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(CALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1974

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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 | SCARCE | 4.20 | 2.60 | 3.50 |
| BIG-EYES | LIMITED | 4.60 | 4.20 | 4.50 |
| SQUID | LIMITED | 5.30 | 3.30 | 4.00 |
| LIZARD FISHES | SCARCE | 2.00 | 1.50 | 1.80 |
| CROAKERS | LIMITED | 3.00 | 1.50 | 2.60 |
| CONGER-PIKE-EELS | SCARCE | 3.60 | 2.40 | 3.20 |
| MELON COAT | SCARCE | 2.80 | 2.30 | 2.50 |
| YELLOW CROAKER | SCARCE | 9.00 | 6.00 | 7.60 |

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.H.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

| TYPE OF VEGETABLE | AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY | WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------|------|
| | | HIGH | LOW | MODE |
| FLOWERING CABBAGE | LIMITED | 2.40 | 0.50 | 1.60 |
| WHITE CABBAGE | LIMITED | 1.60 | 0.30 | 1.00 |
| CHINESE LETTUCE | LIMITED | 1.80 | 0.50 | 1.20 |
| WATER SPINACH | SCARCE | 1.50 | 0.50 | 1.00 |
| CHINESE KALE | LIMITED | 2.40 | 0.60 | 1.60 |
| STRING BEANS | SCARCE | 2.80 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| SPRING ONION | LIMITED | 2.50 | 0.60 | 1.60 |
| SPINACH | SCARCE | 3.60 | 0.60 | 2.40 |
| WATER ORESS | LIMITED | 4.80 | 2.50 | 3.50 |
| LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE | SCARCE | 2.50 | 0.50 | 1.50 |
| CHINESE SPINACH | SCARCE | 1.80 | 0.50 | 1.20 |
| TOMATO | SCARCE | 4.50 | 2.40 | 3.20 |