



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1980

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TYPHOON JOE PUT UP CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR LAST MONTH (JULY) WERE 163 AND 162 RESPECTIVELY, EACH BEING FIVE POINTS HIGHER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH AFTER HAVING REMAINED SUBSTANTIVELY UNCHANGED SINCE FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE FIVE-POINT INCREASE IS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO RISES IN FOOD PRICES, DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF TYPHOON JOE. THE INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF FOOD CONTRIBUTE ABOUT FOUR POINTS IN THE RISE OF CPI(A) AND THREE POINTS IN CPI(B). THE PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND SALT-WATER FISH ROSE BY 25 PER CENT AND 16 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT 1.7 POINTS AND 0.7 POINT OF THE RISE IN CPI(A).

CPI(A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 AND \$1 499 A MONTH AND THE CPI(B) FROM THOSE SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 500 AND \$2 999 A MONTH, AS DETERMINED FROM THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY OF 1973/74.

THE CHANGES FOR JULY 1980 IN RESPECT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE TWO INDICES, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1979, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>			<u>CPI(B)</u>		
	<u>JULY 80</u>	<u>JUNE 80</u>	<u>JULY 79</u>	<u>JULY 80</u>	<u>JUNE 80</u>	<u>JULY 79</u>
FOODSTUFFS	157	150	135	159	152	137
HOUSING	154	151	144	154	151	143
FUEL AND LIGHT	268	262	179	253	247	174
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	184	184	158	177	177	153
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	121	120	110	119	118	109
DURABLE GOODS	135	134	127	131	130	124
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	170	168	145	168	165	143
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	197	196	152	197	196	158
SERVICES	168	167	147	172	171	150
ALL ITEMS	163	158	140	162	157	140

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THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY SEVEN POINTS IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B). ADVERSE WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH TYPHOON JOE CAUSED THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND SALT-WATER FISH TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY. INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH-WATER FISH, FRESH FRUITS, LIVE POULTRY, PORK AND BEEF. THE COST OF MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS ALSO WENT UP. EFFECTS OF THE MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY THREE POINTS IN BOTH INDICES AS HIGHER RENT WAS REGISTERED IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY SIX POINTS EACH IN THE TWO INDICES DUE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR KEROSENE AND LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AS WELL AS HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY.

THE ONE-POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTERCLOTHING ITEMS AND FOOTWEAR.

HIGHER PRICES FOR WOODEN FURNITURE, WATCHES AND TRAVEL GOODS INCREASED THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS BY ONE POINT EACH IN BOTH INDICES.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS INCREASED BY TWO POINTS IN CPI(A) AND THREE POINTS IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES FOR MEDICINES, TOILET REQUISITES AND GENUINE JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY ONE POINT IN BOTH INDICES AS A RESULT OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR FERRY FARES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES AND HIGHER PRICE FOR GASOLINE.

THE ONE-POINT RISE IN THE INDEX FOR SERVICES IN BOTH INDICES WAS MAINLY BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND HAIRDRESSING.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR JULY 1980, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

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COMMENTS ON GREEN PAPER STILL WELCOMED

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COMMENTS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S GREEN PAPER, +A PATTERN OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG+, HAVE BEEN COMING IN AT A STEADILY INCREASING RATE IN RECENT WEEKS, AND ALL ARE BEING GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

+SINCE JUNE, + A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF USEFUL COMMENTS RECEIVED, AND MANY MORE EXPRESSED THROUGH THE MEDIA AND OTHER AVENUES. IT IS ENCOURAGING.+

WHEN THE GREEN PAPER WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON JUNE 6 IT WAS STATED THAT VIEWS FROM THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE EXPRESSED BY THE END OF AUGUST.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY REPRESENTATIONS MADE AFTER THE END OF THIS MONTH WOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

+OBVIOUSLY THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER HAVE TAKEN SOME TIME TO DIGEST, + HE SAID. +BUT WE DO WANT TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE THINK AND EVEN THOSE COMMENTS MADE LATER WILL BE CAREFULLY LOOKED AT.+

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CULTURAL COMPLEX AND LIBRARY FOR SHA TIN

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A CULTURAL COMPLEX AND LIBRARY IS TO BE BUILT IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT WILL CONSIST OF THREE BLOCKS BUILT ON A PODIUM WITH COVERED LINKS.

ONE OF THE BLOCKS WILL BE A MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM WITH 1 400 SEATS. INCLUDED IN THE FOUR-STOREY BLOCK WILL BE AN EXHIBITION AREA AND LECTURE ROOMS.

A SECOND BLOCK WILL BE A PUBLIC LIBRARY WITH A FLOOR AREA OF 3 300 SQUARE METRES. THIS BLOCK WILL BE TWO STOREYS HIGH.

A RESTAURANT WITH A 1 500 SQUARE METRE FLOOR AREA WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN A SINGLE-STOREY BLOCK.

THE PROJECT COSTING \$160 MILLION WILL BE BUILT ON A 1.5 HECTARE SITE FRONTING THE SHING MUN RIVER, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CLEANING UP BEFORE TURNING INTO A BOAT PARK STRETCHING FOR EIGHT KILOMETRES.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN IN JULY, 1981, AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1984.

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A SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CULTURAL COMPLEX AND LIBRARY WOULD BE PART OF THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT.

THE AREA ON BOTH SIDES OF THE COMPLEX WOULD BE MAINLY FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDING HOMES FOR ABOUT 50 000 PEOPLE.

A COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, THREE MEDIUM-RISE COMMERCIAL OFFICE BLOCKS AND A MAGISTRACY WOULD ALSO BE BUILT IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

THE CHIEF ARCHITECT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR FRANK HO-ASJOE, TODAY BRIEFED LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ON PLANS FOR THE CULTURAL COMPLEX AND LIBRARY FOR THEIR COMMENTS. PLANS WILL BE FINALISED WHEN ALL VIEWS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED.

AT THE SAME MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO CONSULTED ON UPDATING THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

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ANTI-CANCER EXHIBITION OPENS AT CITY HALL

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MANY FORMS OF CANCER ARE EITHER PREVENTABLE OR CURABLE IF DETECTED EARLY AND TREATED IN TIME.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, WHEN HE OFFICIALLY OPENED THE ANTI-CANCER EXHIBITION IN THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE EXHIBITION, AIMED AT PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF CANCER, THE TOP KILLER-DISEASE IN HONG KONG, IS JOINTLY HELD BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE STOMA ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, DR THONG SAID THE CANCER MORTALITY RATE DOUBLED IN THE PAST TWO DECADES FROM 62.5 PER 100 000 IN 1959 TO 126.6 LAST YEAR.

HE STRESSED HOWEVER THAT THOUGH CANCER ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF ALL DEATHS IN HONG KONG, IT WAS NOT A TOTALLY INCURABLE DISEASE.

+WHILE CANCER IS FATAL IF UNTREATED, OR IF TREATED LATE, CERTAIN FORMS OF CANCER, IF DETECTED AND TREATED EARLY ARE AMONG THE MOST CURABLE OF THE DISEASES WHICH HAVE BECOME THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE CAUSE AND TREATMENT OF MANY VARIETIES OF CANCER ARE STILL THE SUBJECT OF RESEARCH, MANY CANCERS ARE INDUCED BY EXPOSURE TO KNOWN CARCINOGENIC AGENTS AND THE RISK CAN BE REDUCED BY THE ELIMINATION OR CONTROL OF THESE SUBSTANCES.

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FOR INSTANCE, BY ESTABLISHING SENSIBLE HEALTH HABITS SUCH AS CUTTING DOWN OR CUTTING OUT CIGARETTE SMOKING, MORE LUNG CANCER CAN BE PREVENTED.

FURTHERMORE, EARLY IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT NOT ONLY CAN RESULT IN A BETTER PROGNOSIS BUT ALSO RENDER THE CONDITION LESS DISABLING, SAID DR THONG.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT PUBLIC EDUCATION WAS ESSENTIAL IN REDUCING INCIDENCES OF MORTALITY AND DISABILITY AND IN MINIMISING PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL SUFFERINGS ARISING FROM CANCER.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION CAN SEE HOW CANCER BEGINS AND SPREADS AND HOW SIMPLE HEALTH MEASURES CAN EITHER PREVENT OR DETECT SOME FORMS OF CANCER.

EDUCATIONAL MOVIES AND SLIDES ON TOPICS INCLUDING LUNG CANCER AND CERVICAL CANCER WILL BE SHOWN AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

ON DISPLAY ALSO ARE ILLUMINATED LIFE-SIZE MODELS INDICATING THE COMMON SITES OF CANCER AND THE SPREAD OF CANCER IN THE BODY.

TWO EDUCATIONAL LEAFLETS, ONE ON EARLY CANCER WARNING SIGNS AND THE OTHER ON STEPS TO SELF-EXAMINE BREAST CANCER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6 PM FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO SUNDAY.

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AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR VISITS LOCAL MUSHROOM GROWERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, VISITED A PROMINENT MUSHROOM FARMER IN SEK KONG THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE GROWING OF MUSHROOMS IN HONG KONG.

THE FARMER, MR CHIU MING, IS A LEADING MUSHROOM GROWER. HIS FARM PRODUCES SOME 70 PICULS OF MUSHROOMS EACH MONTH AS WELL AS 30 TO 40 PER CENT OF THE LOCALLY PRODUCED MUSHROOM SPAWNS.

COMMENTING ON HIS VISIT, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THE BASIC FACILITIES AS WELL AS THE LAYOUT AND DESIGN OF THE FARM WERE FAIRLY MODERN AND SUITED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS.

HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MR CHIU THAT MANY MUSHROOM GROWERS HAD VISITED MR CHIU TO STUDY THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF HIS FARM.

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LATER IN THE MORNING, THE DIRECTOR VISITED HIS DEPARTMENT'S VEGETABLE UNIT AT TAI LUNG FARM WHERE SMALL-SCALE TRIALS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT TO SELECT STABLE AND HIGH-YIELDING STRAINS OF STRAW MUSHROOMS FOR PRODUCTION.

IN THE AFTERNOON, HE VISITED PROFESSOR S.T. CHANG OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WHO IS AN AUTHORITY ON STRAW MUSHROOMS, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF GROWING MUSHROOMS LOCALLY. MR RIDDELL-SWAN ALSO VISITED PROFESSOR CHANG'S LABORATORY TO SEE HIS RESEARCH WORK ON MUSHROOMS.

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IMPROVEMENTS IN WATER SUPPLY TO OUTLYING ISLANDS

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS LET TWO CONTRACTS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$5 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE RESERVOIR IN CHEUNG CHAU AND LAYING OF WATER MAINS IN TAI O, LANTAU ISLAND TO IMPROVE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE TWO AREAS.

THE RESERVOIR IN CHEUNG CHAU WILL BE BUILT ON A SITE NEXT TO THE EXISTING ONE AND WILL HAVE A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 3 410 CUBIC METRES.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT \$3.8 MILLION, IS THE LAYING OF ABOUT 600 METRES OF WATER MAINS OF 450 MM IN DIAMETER NEXT TO THE RESERVOIR.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START NEXT WEEK AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

THE OTHER \$1.3 MILLION CONTRACT IS FOR THE LAYING OF ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRES OF WATER MAINS BETWEEN YI O AND TAI O.

ON COMPLETION, THE CAPACITY OF TREATED FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO TAI O WILL BE INCREASED FROM 910 CUBIC METRES TO 1 460 CUBIC METRES A DAY.

WORK WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT NINE MONTHS.

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TEMPORARY RESCHEDULING OF KCR TIMETABLE
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THE TRAIN TIMETABLE ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) WILL BE SLIGHTLY ALTERED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TEMPORARY RESCHEDULING WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18 BECAUSE OF ENGINEERING WORK AT RACECOURSE STATION FOR THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RAILWAY, HE SAID.

THE REVISED TIMETABLE WILL BE DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF COMMUTERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, A NEW SECTION OF TRACK SITUATED ABOUT 100 METRES NORTH OF SHA TIN STATION TO THE SOUTHERN END OF RACECOURSE STATION WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 2).

THE SPOKESMAN URGED PEOPLE NOT TO RISK THEIR LIVES BY CROSSING OR WALKING ALONGSIDE IT.

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WONG CHUK HANG URBAN CLEARWAYS EXTENDED
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THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTED ZONES AT THE NORTHERN APPROACH RAMPS TO AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE WILL BE EXTENDED FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

THE NEW ZONES ARE :

- * THE SECTION OF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD FROM ITS WESTERN END TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HEUNG YIP ROAD-
- * THE SECTION OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD FROM ITS EASTERN END TO HOUSE NO 3-
- * A 20 METRE SECTION OF HEUNG YIP ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WONG CHUK HANG ROAD-
- * A 25 METRE SECTION OF THE UNNAMED SLIP ROAD OFF WONG CHUK HANG ROAD LEADING TO THE LOADING/UNLOADING BAY-
- * THE SECTION OF THE SAME SLIP ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ABERDEEN-BOUND DOWNRAMP OF AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES EAST OF THE JUNCTION.

WITHIN THESE RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR LOADING AND UNLOADING GOODS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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