

HONG KONG: SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGE

0000 GV a resettlement estate.
Cut to MLS crowds

Three and a quarter million people now live in Hong Kong -- more than five times as many as 17 years ago. Nearly half a million have been provided with new homes by the Hong Kong Government. As many more still live in squatter shacks.

0028 LS dry reservoir

Wherever Hong Kong people live, whether they are poor or rich, they have one thing in common -- not enough water. Between October and May each year very little rain falls. Gradually the reservoirs dry up ... and suddenly it's serious. Water is rationed to four hours a day or less.

0044 GV trickle of water

Gullies, which are a roaring torrent during the summer rains, dry to a trickle in winter. This cannot keep the taps flowing.

0066 LS reservoir sedimentation tanks

One huge reservoir was completed four years ago and now, on Lantau Island, another costing over £13 million is being built. It will provide 35 million gallons a day, year round. Water from the reservoir will be pumped six miles along tunnels to these sedimentation tanks. From here it will flow along a submarine pipeline to Hong Kong Island.

0125 MS barge laying submarine pipeline. Cut to CU's

The pipeline, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, has been laid on the seabed by a specially constructed barge.

The pipes are welded together on the barge, then as the craft moves slowly forward they slide to the seabed. A tricky task, but it has been carried out successfully.

0200 MLS queues of people waiting for water. Cut to CU's

For these people the extra water can't start flowing soon enough. Each day they queue with their buckets and old tin cans waiting for the taps to be turned on.

Many of them are hillside squatters. Having got their water from communal taps, must carry it long distances to their homes.

0340 LS boats. Cut to children pushing trolley

Many thousands of Hong Kong people live aboard boats. To get water they must come ashore and wait at the nearest communal tap -- a job often left to the youngsters in the family. These two are doing it the easy way.

0360 CU washing a baby

Precious drinking water cannot be spared for baby's bath. She gets a soap rinse and is doused down with water from the harbour.

0380 GV boys swimming

Older members of the family just dive straight in.

0395 MLS children carrying water

Children collect water on their way home from school. Even the tots, who don't yet go to school, make themselves useful -- the size of the can decreasing with the size of the carrier.

(ENDS)