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Have you a Conscience about our Planet?

DURING WORLD WAR TWO, international trade became very dangerous, because ships could be torpedoed by enemy submarines, losing all the crew and goods.

In those days, I lived in England, where we were all given a “ration card” which entitled us to buy a limited amount of necessities such as tea, butter, and sugar. Some imported goods, such as bananas, disappeared completely from the fruit markets. There was also a limit on the clothing we could buy, so we had to “make do” with dyeing our winter coats to make them look like new. In school too, we were limited in the amount of paper we could use. In those days we learned: “Waste not, want not.” Today, over sixty years later, I cannot forget that lesson, and I never throw away paper that can be sent for recycling.

Hong Kong, fortunately, is not involved in any military war, but we are facing another kind of war that will last longer than World War Two: a war to save the environment of our planet, Earth. It is a war to reduce the toxic pollution that is damaging our health and everything around us; it is a war to save Earth’s resources for our own and future generations.

I am not going explain the danger of global warming, the effects of greenhouse gases, or the melting of the ice cap that is expected to swallow up large areas of land. I am sure you will

learn about these dangers in your science lessons. What I want is to ask you to join in the war to save the world’s environment and resources by avoiding waste, by sending everything possible for recycling, and to stop using materials that cannot be recycled.

This really is a war to save our planet, and we must all take part in it. I am sure you have all seen the special bins provided for sorting out paper, bottles and cans. Can you believe that some people are too lazy to walk a few steps to put those items into the bins, but just throw them on to the ground? Have you seen how some will just drop bottles in flower-pots in parks and playgrounds, rather than put them in the nearby bins?

If we all play our part we can save our earth from destruction. We need to develop our own environmental conscience that makes us feel guilty whenever we are tempted to behave lazily or irresponsibly.