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## **\$40m more in HK's defence bill**

TAXPAYERS have to pay \$40 million more for Hong Kong's defence bill because of a 14 per cent pay rise for the British garrison here, a few papers reported today.

The papers said that the pay rise came into effect on April 1 and that, as a result, Hong Kong's contribution to the defence cost would rise from \$360 million to \$400 million.

Sing Pao said that taxpayers were generally dissatisfied and that they questioned the need for the present size of the British garrison in Hong Kong.

In minor coverage, some papers reported that the British Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Neil Cameron, would leave today on a visit to Peking. Sir Neil visited the army camp at Sek Kong yesterday.

In an editorial yesterday, Wah Kiu Man Po said Sir Neil was the most senior British military officer to visit China since 1949 and his visit would turn a new leaf in Anglo-Chinese relations.