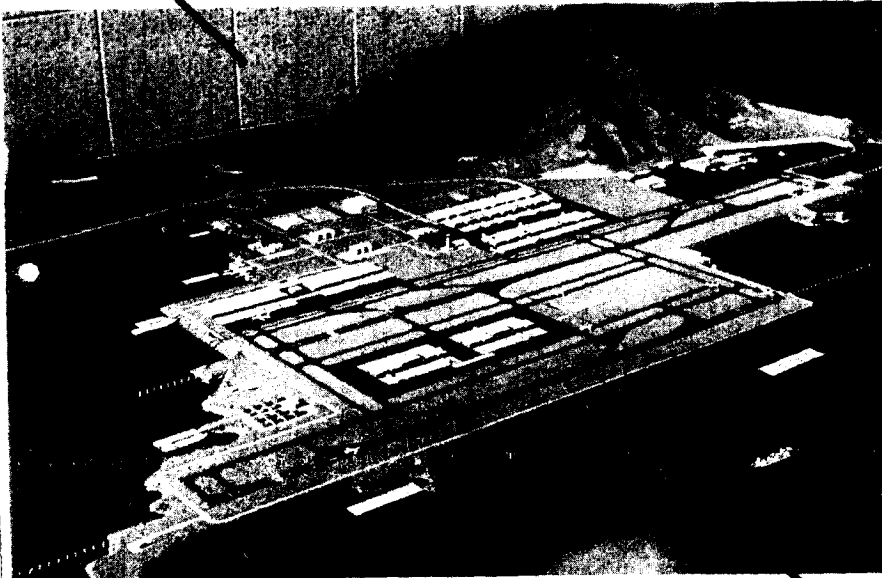


\$100 million design study commissioned

# Lantao airport on the runway

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A MODEL of the proposed new airport at Cheklapkok.

**IT IS now almost certain that a replacement airport will be built in Lantao, and construction is expected to start in 1984.**

A \$100 million study on the civil engineering design of the airport at Cheklapkok was commissioned yesterday with the signing of a contract between the Public Works Department and California-based RMP Encon.

Meanwhile, the Government announced an ambitious proposed development plan for the north end of the island, including housing for 500,000 people, a new container port and possible light-rail links with the MTR.

The airport design study is the most ambitious and most expensive of five such projects which will enable the Government to make a final decision on the airport plan.

Results are expected by the end of next year.

The other studies relate to airport master planning, environmental consideration, meteorological and oceanographic information and financial aspects.

The one on master planning, to cost \$20 million and led also by RMP, has begun work last month. The other studies are believed to be carried out soon by the Civil Aid Department and the Royal Observatory.

Signing the contract yesterday, Nicky Chan, director of Engineering Development of the PWD, said of the \$100 million, \$58 million will go towards consultants fees for preliminary design for the whole project, detailed design for Phase I and model tests.

The remaining sum will be spent on detailed site investigation; the construction, testing and monitoring of a trial reclamation area, Mr Chan said.

"This consultancy marks a major step forward in the long process of planning and preparing for constructing a replacement airport for Kaitak."

The study, Mr Chan said, would include a geotechnical investigation and test reclamation which is "necessary to provide information on the sub-surface conditions for design purposes and to enable detailed estimates of construction costs".

He said "almost a million tons of material" would be dumped into the sea as a test embankment. The area will be incorporated into the overall reclamation for the airport eventually, he added.

"The purpose of the trial reclamation is also to verify design parameters, and to confirm optimum design and method of construction," he said.

According to present proposals, the replacement airport is to be developed in two phases.

A site of 840 hectares would be required for Phase I, estimated at \$5,500 million and includes a single runway of paved length of 3,600 metres. Phase II, with an additional runway, 2,800-metre long is expected to be created by levelling 310 hectares of land from the islands of Cheklapkok and Lamchau and by reclaiming another 530 hectares of land from the adjoining waters. This phase will cost \$1,700 million.