

\$5m UK windfall for Poly

The British Government has approved a grant of £500,000 (about HK\$5 million) worth of equipment to the Hongkong Polytechnic — the largest it has received.

A polytechnic spokesman said yesterday that the chief beneficiary of the gift would be the library which would be getting £390,000 (about HK\$3.9 million) while the Production and Industrial Engineering Department will receive the balance of £110,000

(about HK\$1.1 million).

It is expected that the money will be spent over a two-year period ending in 1977.

The gift follows recommendations made by the technical adviser to the Technical Education and Training Organisation for Overseas Countries (TETOC) in Britain.

The UK expert, Mr Gordon Hunting, visited Hongkong last September to look into the requirements of local institutions.

He recommended that apart

from the HK\$5 million gift to the polytechnic, Hongkong's three technical institutes and the one being built in Cheungshawan should each receive a grant of equipment worth £100,000 (about HK\$1 million).

"The technical branch of the Education Department has not yet received the final word from London but we are hopeful of having a final decision quite soon," a spokesman for the department said yesterday.

Commenting on the British grant which is the first of its

kind made to a local technical institute, the polytechnic's acting Director, Dr Y. K. Ching, said: "We are extremely pleased to have final word about this generous gift."

The polytechnic has decided (and the British Government has agreed) that the money should be used for the purchase of library materials and meteorology and quality assurance equipment.

The mechanics of the grant is such that the polytechnic will not actually receive any money directly. Instead the materials and equipment will be bought in Britain and then shipped to the polytechnic.

It is hoped that the equipment and much of the library material will arrive to coincide with the opening of the polytechnic's stage one building programme in September.

The polytechnic's librarian, Mr Barry Burton, explained that out of the allocation to his section £150,000 (about HK\$1.5 million) would be used to buy non-print materials.

"This money will provide audio-visual aids which will be incorporated into our new library which opens this September," he said.