

# ~~\$~~223m surplus still in the Colony

A GOVERNMENT spokesman stated categorically yesterday that there is no truth whatever in a recent newspaper report that the \$223 million surplus recorded in 1975-76 has been transferred to Britain.

The spokesman said that the surplus will offset part of the deficit of \$355 million estimated for the financial year 1976-77.

He pointed out that part of the surplus was due to the revenue estimated for 1976-77 being received in 1975-76.

He recalled that earlier this month, the Financial Secretary, when commenting on the surplus recorded last year, said it was almost entirely due to revenue being higher than he expected when he presented the revised estimates for 1975-76 in his budget speech in February.

While actual expenditure had turned out to be very close to what he had forecast, revenue was higher than expected mainly because of two unexpected circumstances.

The first of these was that the revival of activity on the stock exchange continued to accelerate into March with a corresponding increase in yield from stamp duty.

The second and more significant factor was that more than 50,000 salaries tax payers paid their full tax in the last financial year rather than taking advantage of the instalment system.