

# \$4.2b political centre plan unveiled

## TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you agree that a new administrative centre should be built at the Wan Chai reclamation site as some Preparatory Committee members have proposed?



Ring 2753-8471  
and simply press  
1 for YES or 2 for NO

By Carmen Cheung

THE high-technology government centre planned for Central and Wan Chai will cost \$4.2 billion and be completed by the end of the century.

The centre also will be served by a \$1 billion tunnel connecting it to Kowloon.

The futuristic plan, as reported by *The Hongkong Standard* yesterday, is the brainchild of Preparatory Committee members Dr Raymond Wu Wai-yung, a cultural specialist, and Nicky Chan Nai-keong, the former secretary for Lands and Works.

They officially unveiled the blueprint for the enormous project, expected to dominate the island promenade, yesterday.

The plan was partly prepared by Bosco Ho Hing-ngai, a top architect and friend of Mr Chan and Dr Wu. He has been working on the concept since last summer.

Mr Chan said the blueprint had been submitted to Chief Secretary Anson Chan Fang On-sang.

A government spokesman confirmed that Mrs Chan had received the project's layout, but declined to comment.

The Planning, Environment and Lands Branch also said last night it had received the plans.

Mr Chan and Dr Wu also have submitted the blueprint to Chinese Vice-premier and chairman of the Preparatory Committee Qian Qichen.

But the project will be the sole responsibility of the Special Administrative Region's future chief executive.

The centre, to house the government and legislators' offices, will have a dozen sections. Among the features will be a cultural centre, a residence for the chief executive, an area housing a statue to commemor-

ate the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997, a new legislature building and headquarters for the People's Liberation Army.

The planners envisage the project being built in the newly reclaimed parts of Central and Wan Chai and close to a commercial centre and airport railway terminal.

The proposed chief executive's house would have 20,000 square metre floor space — about four times more than the present Government House. Government House, on Upper

Albert Road, might be turned into a museum with exhibits commemorating the 1997 transition and years of colonial rule.

The proposed new legislature building will be 25,000 square metres and about four times the size of the present Legislative Council.

The present Legco building will also become a museum.

The main feature is a cultural square with an area about four times that of the Hong Kong Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 40,000. The square

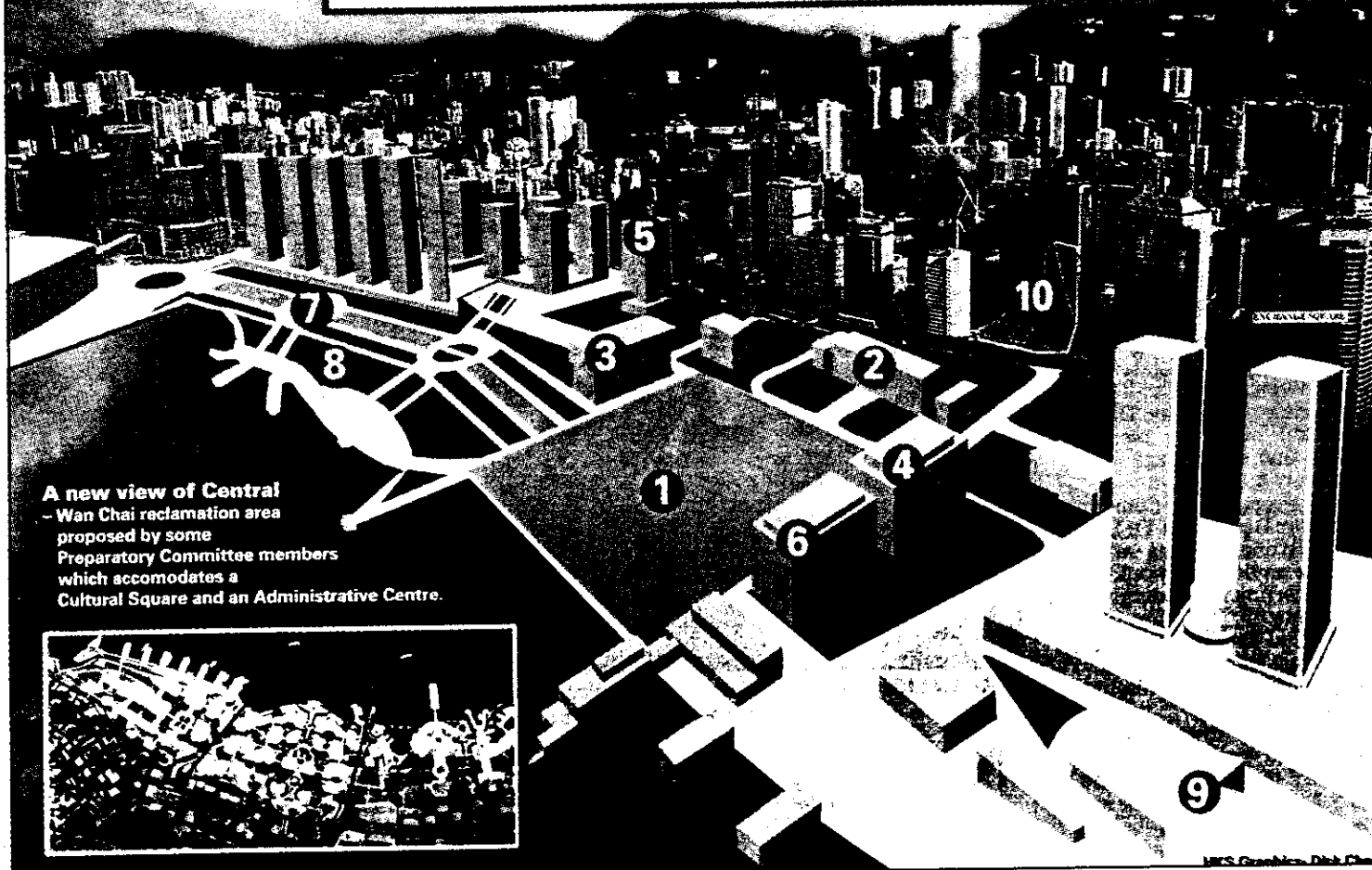
will be on the reclaimed area in front of the present Urban Council.

The Hong Kong SAR will also have a "ceremonial avenue", 150 metres wide, stretching from the commercial eastern district to Central. Mr Chan said the project would have both historical and economic value for Hong Kong.

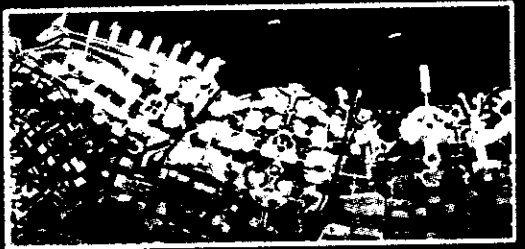
Both he and Dr Wu felt that the project would have minimal bearing on reclamation sites and pre-determined land use for the waterfront.

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- ① Cultural Square — To the north of the Star Ferry Pier
- ② Chief Executive House — The present City Hall
- ③ New Legislative Council — To the north of the Bank of America Tower
- ④ New Central Government Offices — To the north of Exchange Square
- ⑤ People's Liberation Army Headquarters — The present Prince of Wales Building
- ⑥ New City Hall — To the north of Exchange Square
- ⑦ Ceremonial Avenue — To the north of Tamar
- ⑧ Cultural Garden — To the south of Tamar
- ⑨ Underwater Corridor — Link up Admiralty with Tsim Sha Tsui
- ⑩ New Hong Kong Museum — The present Legislative Council Building



**A new view of Central**  
 - Wan Chai reclamation area  
 proposed by some  
 Preparatory Committee members  
 which accomodates a  
 Cultural Square and an Administrative Centre.



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