

S. C. M. P.

20 November, 1976

\$10 billion in 5 years to boost transport

The Government and public transport organisations could spend \$10 billion over the next five years on new transport facilities, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr D. C. Jones, said yesterday.

This would include funds for the Mass Transit Railway, new and improved roads and the modernisation and possible expansion of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, he said.

Speaking at the Hongkong Branch of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Mr Jones said this is one result of our expansion under the New Towns Scheme, and also an example of the "treadmill" of progress which offers us tasks even more daunting than those which we have just finished.

"For instance, the building of New Towns and the expansion of other areas in the New Territories will distribute large concentrations of population and industry far more widely than in the past," he said.

This will in turn require further growth and expansion in all the basic services such as electricity, telephones, water supplies, housing, schools, hospitals and clinics, he added.

Mr Jones said existing



Mr Jones

communications will be hopelessly inadequate to cope with this demand and will need to be considerably expanded and new ones created.

"This is one of the major problems considered in the Hongkong Comprehensive Transport Study which it is hoped will be ready for publication before the end of this year."

Mr Jones foresaw a need in

the coming months for considerable work to be done within the Government, in consultation with those responsible for public transport, to assess the findings of the report.

He said whatever the result of the study, there is no doubt that considerable new investment in transport facilities will be required over the next few years to fully exploit the benefits from our other investments in housing, industry, social and recreational facilities.

"The programme we envisage will be worked out as an integrated whole, using the findings of the Comprehensive Transport Study, but some of the elements are either already being constructed or are in an advanced stage of planning."

He pointed out expansion has both physical and financial aspects: "The Aberdeen Tunnel will be completed and will be joined to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel through a new flyover system. We should also have the Eastern Waterfront Road, the Airport tunnel road linking Kun Tong and the Tuen Mun highway and other developments in the West Kowloon Corridor."

When the Modified Initial System of the MTR is completed, an additional branch to Tsun Wan will be laid by late 1981. It is hoped, by then there will be considerable progress in the modernisation of the KCR with, for example, frequent fast trains between Tai Po, Shatin, and Kowloon, with direct transfer links with the Metro in the urban areas, he said.

Another point the Secretary made is that the better these new transport facilities are, the more they will be used which in turn will add to the development along the corridors which they serve.

"Transport and development constantly chase each other's tails," he said.