

# // \$7.5m renovation for new JLG premises //

By JEREMY LAU

THE Government is spending \$7.5 million to refurbish the former site of a French bank and an English Schools Foundation school to turn it into a venue for meetings of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and other diplomatic missions.

Refurbishing works in the old building at 28 Kennedy Road are

expected to be completed by next March so that Colvin House – the present meeting place in Admiralty – can be torn down to make way for the future British consulate.

Standard security measures for diplomatic missions will be installed.

The senior property manager of the Government Property Agency, Mr Patrick Wilson, said the building was constructed in 1905 by a

French bank, Banque de L'Indo Chine.

According to government records, the building was surrendered to the Crown in 1954, Mr Wilson said.

It was then used by Queen's College, Clementi Secondary School and Kennedy Junior School by turn, he said. The site had been vacant since 1989.

The building was structurally safe and the present work was to make it suitable for diplomatic meetings, he said.

There was no particular problem refurbishing the building, Mr Wilson said. The workers were just doing some repairs to the ceiling; doing landscaping, and installing air-conditioners, closed-circuit television, a public address system, and furniture.

There will be security measures but Mr Wilson would not elaborate.

The whole contract would cost about \$7.5 million, he said.

The acting Government Property Administrator, Mr Graham Heath, said the Government had notified China of its choice of the new venue and no objection had been made.

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