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\$2.5m contract on computer program study

THE Government yesterday signed a \$2.5 million contract for a study on the design of a computer program for its education policy branch.

The system will help the Education and Manpower branch determine the costs of its education policy.

A Government spokesman said the proposal for this consultancy study was originally made by the Education Commission in its report number two.

He said the computer models

would help the commission to take account of the effect of its recommendations on the Government's education budget.

The spokesman said the present study, which would take six months, was the first stage in the development of a computer model.

"It will comprise the design of an integrated system capable of storing and analysing data from across all sec-

tors of the educational system," he said.

He said data from all sectors would be available to a 'master' model operated by the Education and Manpower branch of the Government Secretariat.

He said information to be compiled by the consultants - Coopers and Lybrand Associates Limited - related to the pre-primary, primary, secondary, sixth form, technical, tertiary, special education and teacher training.