

## Anger at delay for school <sup>12.3</sup>

EXPATRIATE parents are up-in-arms over yet another delay to the construction of an English-speaking primary school in Sai Kung and Clearwater Bay.

The English Schools Foundation has been promising to build a junior school in the area for seven years.

Parents were led to believe one would finally be opening next year on the Kohima Barracks site in Clearwater Bay Road.

But the foundation now says a school cannot possibly open until 1990 - at the earliest.

Plans for the 550-pupil school have only just been submitted and the go-ahead is not likely for months.

Construction of the school, adjacent to a new university, would take at least another 15-months.

Parents were told of the delay at a district board seminar for expatriates in Sai Kung.

Mr Alex Blum, a district board member, said: "We definitely need a primary school - and a secondary school - and are pushing ahead for it."

He said the Education Department had miscalculated demand, explaining: "They expected expatriates to be leaving Hongkong - but in this area a survey has shown the reverse."

By the time the school is built, he said, a second one would probably be needed.

In the meantime, local children must continue to make twice-daily 40 and 50-minute bus journeys to schools in Kowloon.