

Argyle Poly site sought by language institute

By Agnes Lam

EDUCATION officials are eyeing the City Polytechnic's temporary premises in Mong Kok as a permanent site for the Institute of Language which is now housed in an "undesirable" environment.

They have asked the Finance Branch to reserve two floors of the temporary City Polytechnic premises at Argyle Centre Tower II when they move out in mid-1989.

Principal Assistant Secretary in the Education and Manpower Branch, Mr Anthony Woo, told *The Standard* yesterday that they had also suggested using

the premises for the proposed *Open Learning Institute* to be set up for distant learning programmes.

The two proposals were submitted to the Finance Branch last month for evaluation of their financial implications.

Mr Woo said they hoped the first proposal would be approved because there was an urgent need to rehouse the Institute of Language which is now located at the Park-in Commercial Centre.

The institute offers training for language teachers.

He said it was too noisy in the

crowded commercial building and in addition there was a lack of learning facilities.

The City Polytechnic, which took out a bank loan to purchase its present premises, plans to move to its permanent premises in Kowloon Tong in mid-1989.

It is understood that the Finance Branch prefers to sell the premises because the price of office space at Argyle Centre has been going up in recent years.

Mr Woo said the Education and Manpower Branch was only asking for two floors so the proposal might stand a good chance

of being approved.

He said that it would be a matter of "picking one's money from one pocket and putting it into another" if the Government decides to sell the premises.

This was because the lease on the Institute of Language would expire in May and the Government would have to rent or buy other premises to accommodate it.

Mr Woo said the proposal to use the City Polytechnic for an open learning institute would not be given top priority because the institute would not be set up in the near future.

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