

9 Nov. 1988

\$18b for massive reclamation

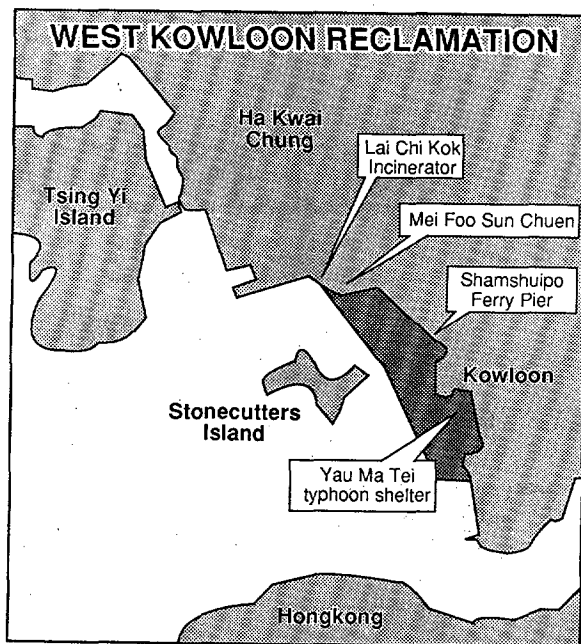
By TAD STONER

MORE than \$18 billion has been allocated to reclaim and build on 320 hectares of new land between the Kowloon coastline and Stonecutters Island, to provide relief to adjoining urban districts and land for two major highway projects.

The West Kowloon reclamation will be twice the size of the 168-hectare Central-Wan Chai reclamation. It will cost more than the \$18.5 billion of the Central-Wan Chai project and halve the waterway between the coastline and Stonecutters Island.

It will reduce overcrowding in the districts of Cheung Sha Wan, Lai Chi Kok, Shamshuipo, Mongkok and Yau Ma Tei, and provide land for the West Kowloon Expressway, Hongkong's third harbour crossing and a network of distributor roads proposed as part of the Government's \$127 billion plan for port and airport expansion.

"We hope to start towards the end of next year, in the Yau Ma Tei area,



which will provide the landfall for the Western Harbour Crossing," said Mr Carl Maunder, chief engineer for Kowloon at the Urban Area Development Office, which is supervising the project.

"It will be about 300 me-

tres out from the existing shoreline between Lai Chi Kok and Yau Ma Tei, and provide residential, commercial and industrial land."

Most of the northern portion of the reclamation would be devoted to industri-

al development, while the southern half would take care of residential and commercial requirements, Mr Maunder said.

"The current thinking on Yau Ma Tei, which will be the main residential area, is that 33,000 people will live there," he said.

"It will take the load off the existing Kowloon areas and provide better housing and more open space."

Coastal industries will also have to be moved.

"There are quite a lot of them along west Kowloon, and a lot are quite large things like wholesale meat markets, ferry piers and shipyards," Mr Maunder said.

The reclamation itself would cost \$4 billion.

"The \$4 billion is just to form the land, without any roads or buildings on it, and the rest of the infrastructure will be something of a similar order to the Central-Wan Chai reclamation, but a bit more because the area is a bit larger," he added.