

J. C. M. P.

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## 40 families complain about housing 'snub'

By WALTER CHEUNG

Forty families yesterday complained they had been denied alternate accommodation by the Housing Society which is going to demolish their flats and resume the land for redevelopment.

More than 1,100 people from 110 units will have to move out by February 19 for the construction of a housing project for 1,900 people.

These disgruntled households said they were left out because they were not living there in 1982 when a survey was conducted.

One of their representatives said they were either owners who had rented their flats out or were not residing there for various reasons.

At a press conference, the representatives appealed to the Housing Society to give them alternate accommodation.

They also urged for compensation, in addition to removal allowances.

The Government granted the 2,950 sq metre site in Sycamore Street, Tai Kok Tsui, to the Housing Society last year for a development project under its urban improvement scheme.

The scheme featuring four 15-storey blocks of residential units over a ground floor podium of shops and community facilities will take four years to complete.

The roof of the podium will be used as a garden and children's playground.

About 100 units last year were granted alternate accommodation.

The buildings in question were built by the now-defunct Hongkong Economic Housing Society in 1955.

In 1977, the Government told landlords the lease has expired and that it would not be renewed.

The landlords then sought legal counsel to fight their case but in vain.

About 80 units were asked by the Government to leave by the end of 1977 for a road project while others continued to live there until now.

They continued to pay rates and property tax to the Government.

The representatives argued that landlords should be entitled to ex-gratia allowances even though the lease had run out.

They also appealed to the Housing Society to delay the eviction deadline to allow them more time to make removal arrangements.