

J. R. M. P.

2 November, 1978.

## \$13m bail for ex-sergeant

The wife of retired police sergeant Lai Man-yau will have to surrender a piece of land in the New Territories.

The property is believed to be worth more than \$10 million.

This was one of the conditions set by Mr Justice Trainor in chambers yesterday when he allowed Lai bail pending trial.

Lai (63), who retired from the police force in 1969 and is now a stock broker, had pleaded not guilty to a charge

of having assets disproportionate to his official income.

The trial will be held in Victoria District Court on March 9.

Following an application by Mr Miles Jackson-Lipkin, QC, on Lai's behalf, Mr Justice Trainor set bail at \$1 million cash plus two sureties.

One of the sureties will be put up by Lai's wife who will assign to the Registrar of the High Court or other officers selected by the Registrar, a piece of land and all her interests in the land.

The other surety, to be approved by the Registrar, is a sum of \$2 million.

Lai, who was arrested on October 17 and charged with being in control of assets disproportionate to his past official emoluments on May 15, 1971, had been refused bail by a magistrate at a preliminary hearing and by a District Court judge when plea was taken.

He has since been detained in the Laichikok Remand Centre.

Lai is expected to be released today or tomorrow when all procedures have been completed and approved by the court.

The Deputy Assistant to the Attorney-General, Mr Brian Caird, and Crown counsel Graham Fuller appeared for the Crown at yesterday's chambers hearing.

Mr Jackson-Lipkin was assisted by Mr Jimmy Kwong, instructed by Mr Patrick Hui.

(Court reports on Pages 10 and 11)