

S. C. M. P.

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## Blaker's visit is <sup>useless</sup> useless, say rebels

Rebel Urban Councilors yesterday expressed disappointment over their meeting with the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Peter Blaker.

But they all agreed that it came off very much "as expected."

Mrs Elsie Elliott said the half-hour session on Monday was "an apology for an interview."

"It was a completely pointless visit," she said.

Mrs Elliott said that with more than a dozen councillors attending, there was only time for each to speak one or two sentences with Mr Blaker.

"Mr Blaker made some notes but gave no promises. Any answers he gave us were the same as those given 10 years ago.

"I don't expect any changes as a result of the meeting," she said.

Dr Denny Huang described the meeting as "nothing very special."

"We repeated all we have been asking for the last 10 to 15 years," he added.

These included elections for the Legislative Council, returning to the council its jurisdiction over public hous-

ing and discussions over various export restrictions imposed by the European Economic Community.

The rebels are after more democracy in the running of local affairs.

"The Minister would not commit himself on any subject. He said that being new at his post, he would rather learn about things before making decisions.

"Meanwhile, the Urban Council is going down the hill. Our jurisdiction is shrinking," Dr Huang said.

● Mr Blaker yesterday also visited the border and met Army units engaged in anti-illegal immigrant duties.

Accompanied by the Commander British Forces, Major-General Sir Roy Redgrave, Mr Blaker took a helicopter ride along the border where he met officers of the Royal Marine Commandos at Shataukok.

Mr Blaker also visited the Wanchai Police Headquarters where he was met by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Roy Henry.

He was briefed on the various aspects of the police force by Mr Henry.

Mr Henry has just returned after attending the 49th General Assembly of Interpol at Nairobi, Kenya.