

J.C.M.P. 30 Oct. 1984

## 12 zones for NT elections <sup>22-9</sup>

The New Territories is to be divided into 12 constituencies for elections for the new regional council to be established in 1986.

The 12 elected seats on the council will be taken by successful candidates elected from the 12 constituencies.

City and New Territories Administration officials are currently planning the new constituency boundaries which will differ slightly from the boundaries of the nine present New Territories districts.

The Regional Secretary for the New Territories, Mr Adolf Hsu, said the 12 constituencies will be based on population distribution in the region.

The total New Territories population is projected to exceed three million by 1986 when elections for the regional council will take place. Mr Hsu said there will thus be about 250,000 people in each constituency.

As well as the 12 elected seats, the regional council will have 12 appointed members, three ex-officio members appointed by the chairman, two vice-chairmen from the

Heung Yee Kuk and nine members elected from the nine New Territories district boards.

Mr Hsu said the Government hopes district board members who want to run for the elected council seats will be asked to relinquish their district board membership.

The will enable more people to participate in the political system, he said.

In contrast to the present Urban Council structure, regional councillors — with the exception of the nine district board members — will not sit on district boards.

On the issue of pollution of the Shumchun River, a principal assistant secretary for the New Territories, Mrs Rita Lau, said a report from both parties involved will be completed soon and presented to the Chinese-Hongkong joint committee on border affairs.

Mrs Lau said teams from both sides have already identified specific locations for study by pollution experts.

The two teams will exchange information before the joint committee meets to decide on its strategies to tackle the problem.