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## \$200m for China water flow

A \$200 million contract for the construction of an aqueduct system to bring more water from China was awarded yesterday.

The contract, awarded by the Water Supplies Department, is the biggest of nine contracts signed so far under stage one of a \$1,300 million water supply scheme. The contract is for constructing the aqueduct system from Mukwu to Taiamchung.

The contract was formally signed between the acting director of Water Supplies, Tom Tomlinson, the director of the China Construction Engineering Corporation, Gu Tianxun, and the director and general manager of Guangdong Water Conservancy and

Hydro-Power Engineering Development Company, Ye Hao.

Hongkong currently receives 182 million cubic metres of water from China a year, and will be provided with an average increase in supply of about 35 million cubic metres a year starting next year.

The water supply scheme, due to provide a maximum of 620 million cubic metres per year by 1995, has been planned in three stages.

Work on the first stage has already achieved the laying of about 1.8 kilometres of mild steel pipeline from Futeiau to Sheungshui. The entire stage will be completed by the end of 1984, at a cost of

\$700 million, he said.

This latest contract provides for the construction of 13.8 kilometres of tunnel measuring 3.4 metres in diameter and the laying of 6.8 kilometres of pipeline with a diameter of 2.2 metres.

"When completed at the end of 1984, the new aqueduct system, together with a pumping station to be constructed at Autau, will boost water supply to the whole of west New Territories by 910,000 cubic metres daily," explained Mr Tomlinson.

Subsequent stages of the work will be reviewed before implementation, to take into account any changes in the pattern of

development, he said.

Stage two, to begin in 1984 and cost \$450 million, will include laying pipelines between Sheungshui and Tau Pass, the installation of extra pumping plants at Mukwu and Autau, and the construction of new pumping stations at Harbour Island, Taimeituk, and Plover Cove reservoir.

Aqueducts between Plover Cove reservoir and Pakkong in Saikung, and from Taipotau to Ngautammei, are planned, plus the laying of a submarine pipeline across Tolo Channel.

Stage three involves the provision of extra pumping facilities at Mukau, Autau, Taimeituk and Harbour Island.