6 November 2010

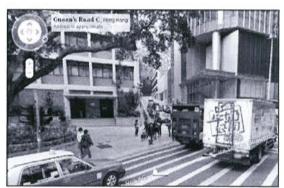
Dear Panel on Development,

I OBJECT to the proposal by Government to sell Inland Lot 564 - which is currently the site of part of the West Wing of the Central Government Offices on Ice House Street and Battery Path - for the following reasons.

1. In 1883, I.L. No. 564 was granted to William Keswick for 999 years because it had been and was being used as an Ice House. At the time, the Hong Kong Ice Company was using the lower floor of the building as an Ice Depot, which was of public benefit. Hon. Mr. Keswick, a member of the Legislative Council, was granted the lease personally.







2010 photo courtesy Google Streetview

- 2. By 1934, the lease had been assigned to the *Hong Kong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ltd.* At the time, the Government claimed that it needed to resume the land for "a public purpose" and did so. HK Land did not selling willingly. They were forced to do so through the resumption process and the courts. In time, Government built the West Wing of the Central Government Offices which was, and is, a public purpose.
- 3. However, Government has now stated that I.L. 564, which was resumed for a public purpose, is simply a part of its Land Bank, and Government plans to resell it for a private profit. Question: How often has Government resumed land for a "public purpose" and then sold it for private profit?
- 4. By proposing to sell the lot, Government has established that it misrepresented to the court in 1934, the real reason for the resumption which was using the land for a *temporary* public purpose, and returning it to the Land Bank.
- 5. This bring up a larger issue. If the Government can resume and then resell a piece of property after 70 years, then the **Question is**: how short a time does the Government have to put a "resumed" lot into public use before it resells it? 10 years, 10 months, 10 days? One hour?
- 6. Today, in 2010, there is land being resumed for a public purpose for a railway. If part of that land is not used, with this sale of I.L. 564 as a precedent, how long does the Government have to wait before it can sell the land resumed for the railway?
- 7. Let us look at the relevant law:

Chapter: 124 - LANDS RESUMPTION ORDINANCE

Long title:

To facilitate the resumption of Government lands required for public purposes.

Interpretation: "resumption for a public purpose" (收回作公共用途) includes—
(b) resumption of any land upon which any building is erected which, by reason of its proximity to or contact with any other buildings, seriously interferes with ventilation

Section: 16 - Power to demise or grant land resumed

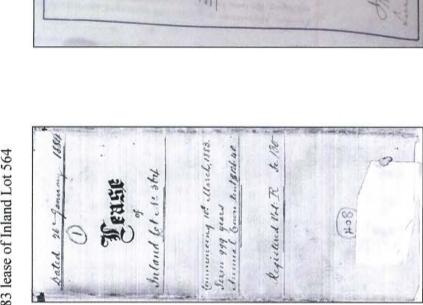
Any land resumed under the provisions of this Ordinance may be demised and granted by the Chief Executive on such terms and conditions and at such price, whether by way of rent, premium or otherwise, and either by public auction or private contract, as the Chief Executive may determine. 8. By proposing to build a tower, the Government is operating contrary to the intent of the resumption law. The building proposed for I.L. 564 will seriously **interfere with ventilation** in Central. This is one of the few remaining places where there is still some air ventilation in Central.



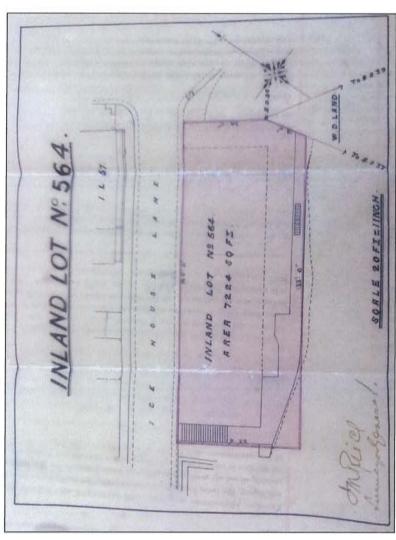
- 9. If the Government declares that there is no longer a public purpose for the land, then the purpose of the resumption is no longer valid and I.L. 564 should be returned to the original leaseholder of 1934 not sold under Sec. 16, which assumes that the "demise" will be **for a public purpose**.
- 10. There is another option. The Government could announce that since they have now learned that they resumed the lot explicitly for "a public purpose" and since it is unlawful to resume property for a non-public purpose, let them Government state that I.L. 564 is NOT FOR SALE, and will only be used for a public purpose as they told the court in 1934.
- 11. There is considerable public use to which this large, well-designed building, in good condition, can be put. I look forward to Government doing a public consultation with others who work for the public good to get their ideas. Also, to consult within the Government itself, to see if any Government Department that will not be moving to Tamar who will have to rent in the Central and Western District or departments further afield can put this excellent building to use, while saving taxpayers ongoing rental costs.

Relevant historical information can be found at http://gwulo.com/node/7432

Thanks you. Annelise Connell



1883 lease of Inland Lot 564





1969/4

Hone Kong's Public Emputy Service

A service, believed to be unique in South-East Asia, is now operating in the British Grown Calony of Hong Mong. There, any of the Calony's 5,500,000 people can take their problems to a Government appeared Public Enquiry Service where their questions will be answered in confidence.

Since it was inaugurated two years ago, the Public Exquiry Service's staff have handled none 250,000 questions on subjects ranging from business exquiries to domestic disputes.

The prime object of the service is to help resently arrived immigrants to the Colony adjust themselves to a new way of life, but more important, it is now serving as a link between the people of Hong Kong and the Government.

THIS PICTURE SHOWS HER. Laurie show Chow-gues, one of the 20 information officers who staff the Public Engulry Service. She is seen here at the service's office on Hong Kong Island.

Official Photograph Lanued by, Government Information Services, 5th & 6th Florm, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HOW KEEG.

July, 1963.

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3885/2

STOP ME AND ASK ONE

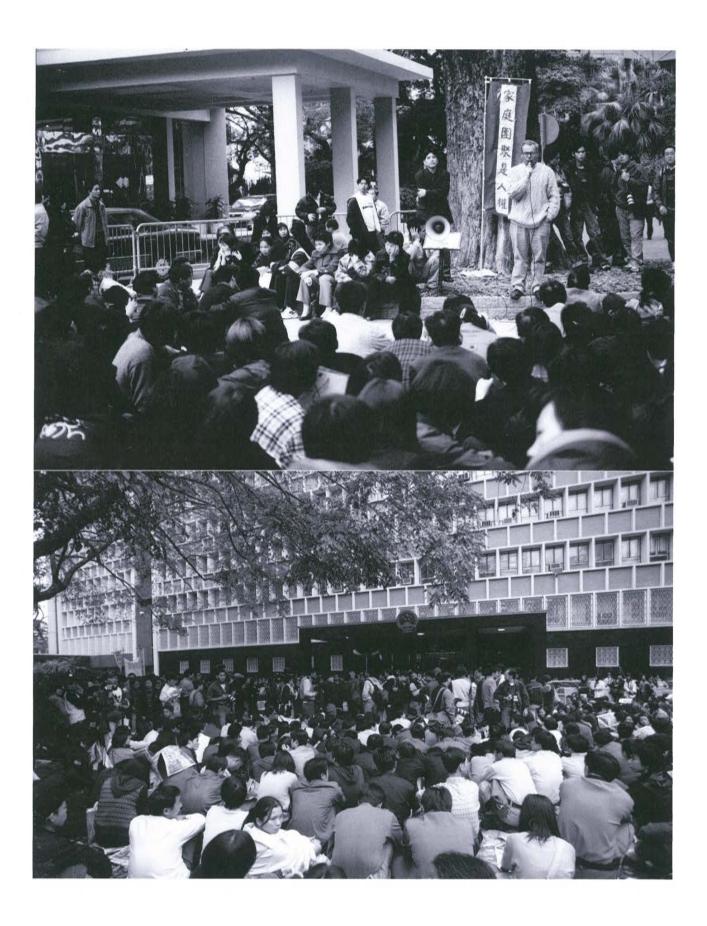
In Hong K ng, walking encyclopsedias would attract little attention. They have met their match in something much closer to automation. Here a specially designed information dispenser is not on wheels and deployed wherever the questions are likely to fly thickest and fastest.

This mobile information van is one of the facilities provided by H ng Kong's Public Enquiry Service; facilities designed to satisfy the growing curiosity of the Colony's four million people. In addition to this mobile unit, the service maintains three permanent information centres and helps to run regular radio programmes in conjunction with two local broadcasting stations.

THIS PICTURE SHOWS an information deak located at the entrance to Hong Kong's Central Government Offices, The staff here deal with hundreds of enquiries a day,

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES STH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE HONG KONG

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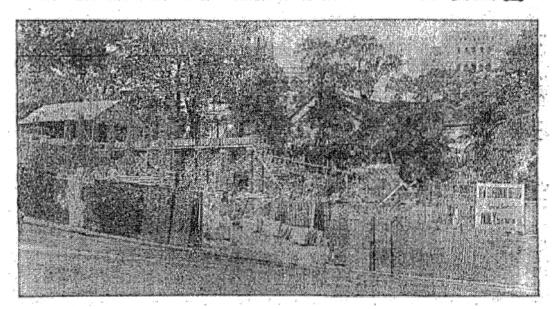
Newspaper Clippings on Government Hill in the 1950-1960s



1951/11/10 Wah Kiu

上指行建築計劃之份二階段,重理制度一體。此第二段之工程, 第二段之前照土器。新规格而跨导应将,高速十二岁,他因以前 即可正式水久观避游公;而工存渴则自目前下亚顺母或之游年或游公常用之而指的四萬七千方呎。此段工程完成之後,輔政司署 於有他下一層,便上五層,存有一所大會國際股於三根,可供作 图至其永久地址。用吟,目而工称尚之维华虚亦将托理·以他行 可完成之工物,但双十天的可数亦。 一千萬港党。由於不欲接及各機關日常政務之因難,故決完計並雖此財政府合署,爲潛府五年建設計劃中之與俱及大者,贊要 、水粉粉、及线仙政府投资保用,整约令每工程,则需量年 第三度な影物を面積・約第九萬三千方尺・特性成務層、時

· 即為四届之根而建築,其中最 第一段建築工程,可認於上項 月內完成。又該公司對於上項 工程之進行,其中與困難,在 上項 於地下層之對不可對於上項 方法將岩石取出,因而一天即族成場近新,新五百方呎之寬。 中於 完成一年。大一步和樂計劃,完成一年。大一步和東京縣上,及灣土場工程已經完成,亦已之處,與新柱之安價工程,亦已之經上,及灣土場工程已經完 [[1] | 位北风而男子五



港政府合署 上至下月完成

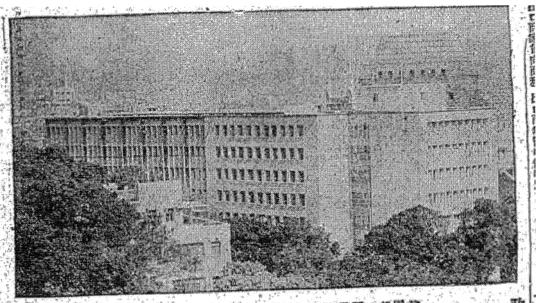
1953/5/25 Wah Kiu



1953 Wah Kiu

小學校 一 小學校 一 9 今日休假 飛動,日於安年秋開始。項日加工避難。 司場側止,由保墨雞漿公司以二百卅餘萬 司以一百十餘萬 田離祖見,工程分三部進行。共第一部工元,因工程浩大及倡解决令機關辦公地址 题研究原**此之**照明合果,信息及所以实 (6 四) 化艾尔因应现于运动路通过 政府合署初 第二帝第二帝工 Š 工務局亦將自下屯區 之地址,现在之工務 于 本 不 尺 。 根 多 国 入 ff E T. 步 工 Œ 程划接進行 法大人日 停火 ******* ********* ******** *** *** *** *** ** *** *** ** # 2

1953/6/15 Wah Kiu



之地下一尉,贈訟有可容八十人之小宜店 ・現時等機內部正由工人加以基礎。 大理 時間週一面之特別,即以基礎,將為 所不開道一面之特別,即以基礎,將為 * 鼓动脉物日近路成场段 * 大約下月開即部班第工程 * 共四级之规范亦已继行拆卸 例而與下非原和市路口頭政府合為之第一 得水大性型中的公地區之及期計則,原因 可容用。这种实物是一可使或所各种的现 来成第一個階段之間は。60一類取る六周 **共仙工程計劃之繁忙,其中有不少总值混** 計工程部人員自續促則師胡顧以下,未因 **外間人門為其,不發向以前屆中與軍人取** 9、此項工程亦円定於十二月初動工。自由。第二部工程,將新和擴建至輔政司署現址進。現時之輔政司署報予拆卸,以傳進行進。現時之輔政司署報予拆卸,以傳進行 ○ T新扇總務部約於十一月十四及十五國 ○ 臨港廠方而已集兩稱顯本將彫刻之稱美 即動於在他於所以所以與**以然的以,** 人位,因以所有常见或之多所要式是学之 類物中,現時都有一度完成。此時依然花) 順吳地和本非者所謂之致兩辦公司。 即 節門,可使辦公效率更佳,而段地面稍低 作地方・至台司器・新版内部収布など 者·仍则将这种人也现得您回而分别之 展開共国共和十二個月完成されると 国人政政政党全主政府上和部则的总第二 特別し本形取役與難され大規化化

1953/10/24 Wah Kiu

目前在花崗道之政府掛公室成一直角形。目前仍在進行中,整確起築物計而七層了 關於位在中央之一嚴重紊動了共越後工程 **提出来の元四、4、**東本 **建築工作,不久即可** 情段之工程,其初步 于拆卸,並在建築地 一三號之二排獲標, 將 本日意程已經交佈於十一月即可完成。

1956/6/9 Kung

· 并且下西司起来的表 所**到**北股间之名于**地**段 是重的技术四时的下 ,不**时**则是前位次回 f II F 田田 王 三 三 三 元 元 元 元 元 元 元 7. 1.

P. 未得本因 → 下頭面

一幢。大吋之鄉入府即城村之十三府大吋 份。有關新政府合學之最後一部

致工程自成一起,與 取情情口,在下面區 取情情口,在下面區 中山至雪 中山 度方灰地方:可供各工:用時將有二十餘 元十届時將有二十餘 巴克及文法学系的。 地底停車協則可停放政府機關之用,至於 **医果则而食用,並在**

1956/12/8 Kung

。凡屬市民,對立班的會議設生與義者,皆可前往吃購,然須任何手續,即可對由公

戴維斯爵士 《香港市一任總督經林间乍賢士》主持食基與禮者。香港歷史告所否入了而報出致網牌,牌上刻明政和解政司大壇於一人四七年二月廿四日由香港第二任建督使紀念牌有一段歷史價值;事級選輔政司署於一九五四年八月廿四日拆卸時,從四北 係依備合展在检察工程上的一個近家配念路式,此樣式來行物點,保在該合居最主要來再向周便與鐵四部之一座。該大應與建時:未舉行其派都式,今日單行之損惡體,於分類多類階致值行。平据完成沒樣實部之一座,目前繼續完成者貸中部之》座,將念與揭幕機。該大廈企座依照建委計劃,保東起自花阅道,西至常發行》其建委工程 ·今中由選賽將一個英國獎提開之紀念牌,係候在大廈中部正門口大端之右腿踏,該與时中新一座,其進亦即獲賴致問署之原址。 · 宋朝基所] 非洲政府联合各大 **顺,的**於今日下生

東時輔政司大阿之姓战,僅堪而三所,建**率**如坦爾斯,全部建築委員一的四千三百錢 **暗示將來議員可能增加** 大阪中部 二種 乙二氏 同僚調

人司令十便士,约合现在班幣北三萬元。

新會議室座位增至十八

大阪后上組織,則有官守與非官守護黃地十七人,新會議密藏員應降位之增加了或司经 中的語,公之斯區與員休息量,上計則接一長走廊,老別者已作此準備交。 東巴斯成之東部,群成一氣,行政及立供局為監控。而將實過經濟。與用國天政 中巴斯成之東部,因此東部及中部之各機關從新聞定。關於行政局及立供局會議室所在之 大阪之二樓,因此東部及中部之各機關從新聞之。關於行政局及立供局會議室所在之 大阪之二樓,因此東部及中部之各機關從新聞之經、即將實過差別位之數。數大區與 中的語,公本語與其一人,就可以 中的語,公本語(與其一人,就可以 中的語)公本語(與其一人,就可以 中的語)公本語(與其一人,就可以 中的語)公本語(與非官守護黃地)七人,新會議密藏員應降位之增加了或司经 中的語)公本語(與非官守護黃地)七人,新會議密藏員應降位之增加了或司经 中的語)公本語(與非官守護黃地)七人,新會議密藏員應降位之增加了或司经 中的語)公本語(與非官守護黃地)七人,新會議密藏員應降位之增加了或司经 席座位不下十八個,而耳加立 是項。其般值得注意者認顧員 與項。其般值得注意者認顧員 與可以集實之例會,新音寫室

後側之能者或北他切地人士,均能聽見,數量被有能者位十席,市民俯瞰席入十六個所發言時,北際實際能向的到達正席位外,且能穩主席背极之間背板設計,但觀員席所發言時,北際實際他向的到達正席位外,且能穩主席對及原質觀 對八個類員席內給有密氣體而外入 岸央省座位一十八個,共座位而動,桌上有裝設廣播器之準備。室數正居座位,類員席共有座位一十八個,共產位而動,桌上有裝設廣播器之準備。室設定間積纖不甚大,正面設主席座位,共前面景聚員座,分篷前三排,接三排,面 1 流程音响,即日在联局 1 分裂石

第77一切影師,與常漢觀,內川「美奏英輪」四学形容多面號,實際之無謀の

貝納其在市

1957/1/9 Kung

在數縣搭數層準油及一號化學將液,以免生銹及受到灾氣級上端。目前石匠正從專業廢跌化協石;而跌進古砲亦正 上。践化尚石塊位於由地合學原面立立法同識專室之一度石比像古வ時水久安放於政府合屬外一連當機關之花崗石塊之中國古硇。比件繼軸之年代,進在三百多年前之阴朝。現泥工作時,曾於九龍廳閔起一點接約五呎牛,直釣七百磅 6)好益為粹類科仁,譬局都可何與群,永定縣將軍印,飲會讓醫兩賣部院赴造,按《聯之文字,尤應與應《英文加下:「營班」聯之文字,尤應與應《英文加下:「營班級,且下已經別多方之注意,而中期際史 **爬物组一定还约五呎牛)重约七百项** 一月,因逐時轉奏場新聞頒而進行抄

1957/9/13 Kung

5 万 7 7 1

作比图[加平符] 聚运军上 をう不少市民民政 分割の非国際技芸を

協石関件供居民現象

1957/9/19 Kung

安保原则不完都工程。 会得所成为例1.非独 的一种,对一种的 ・仲一・奥・陳朝石 CEIVING & DES Abire & PASSAL BIMEN Michan Transpar - (ACCOUNTA ESTABLISHMEN Michan February Account ENSIONS ABIRE BEANCH (SAL BASSAL BASS **外的的下手时的□馈(读——**前消波形式的 华内并公成明之名明:李登丽《周老月》次 被流發近,就判底 CE 。 E模——段務 GE) MAIN ACC 趙樹粲麗兒 **昨赴美考察** 一般・水田に伸入了山麓土打大府三橋)。 REGISTRY等了町 PATCHING OFFI ARIES & PASSA 三樓——按周REVE 日東北京文集——7. 作者以上市全員選集 中京縣的情間用入。一旦建——政府訪問席:由下頭縣話道出入了 大・代学大学の子組の世界である。

| 短順庫強用人の学が| 現確定由本り登れする
| 治路景観・正門由下| 理補受出生設工作する
| 一部間域 | す上機一坊 | 作人員到波鄉事會競 市政局及市政本務成 能册外问意,抵出工期成長。之[模一者]推 , 这至最近晚件生死 山下軍地稱派大,十一百代語地力太平静士 未及申與出生歌字 前,其中有不少朝兒 可以中有不少朝兒 可以中有不少朝兒 荃灣學員 當局派

1959/7/6 Kung

田別職権後、頼段、頼氏女会子、原党、 中事実収測の附属が和、黄根藻、目航会 及大觀影片公司分公司結務の被等時於本 及大觀影片公司分公司結務の被等時於本

本相基的 1 专员的 医肾级后增度及其类

的网络及目配公司为水野。

特定方軍火事家到場在 第方立即將與据的近對

拆開後·原來又是優优 抵途現場將可疑的包養 们後時間· 华火專家

世話七次人〇三世紀の 近 所 非 情 计 **计 K 人** 七 五

今。 李明等祖后 下 引力 此 及低面层整三七° 318°。 则中有的无及数据,相**为**有险机关

1967/8/10 Kung

上了网名扬利分子在政 的採业女工人·昨午祖 一名美奢 一次的(情) 大郎司法

現一桶汽車的行李箱有學及,便留心養祭,發

Z 如序水塔的管理人。由 公是。联辑人公则通

1967/8/16 Kung

1967/10/9 Kung

見込みでです。 道政府宣漢而度述承地許・依依依上地為花園 天台,作物的路路 **建**高等以来可**见**下打 公司力制建切・政府を 小文字及因為中国的 (1) 人作**图**以自建物 为例识核•由虚 大一,晚工 表高 。除場上務後 第下偏派局力 得。將出處力 在但數 搭理 乃亦