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5th July, 1955.

K. M. A. Barnett, Esq.,  
District Commissioner,  
New Territories.

Dear Barnett,

### Rural Development Committee.

I have been giving much thought to ways of bettering the conditions of the people of the New Territories. The following ideas strike me as worthy of serious consideration and, subject to your approval, might be brought up for discussion at our next committee meeting:-

1. Water and Sand. A tax of 10 per cent. on all water charges, and a tax of \$1 per cubic yard on the purchase of sand, should be imposed. The revenue derived from these taxes should be reserved for the betterment of conditions in the New Territories. This I consider justifiable on the ground that water and sand are the two major assets of the New Territories, and these are being taken mainly for the benefit of those residing in the cities.

2. Reclamations. The construction of the new air port at Kai Tak will probably necessitate a large-sized dredger being brought to Hong Kong. I would suggest that the Rural Development Committee recommend to Government, or to the C. D. & W., that before the dredger leaves the Colony the following, amongst other places, be reclaimed, mainly for agricultural development and fish culture:- Sha Tin Hoy, Tolo Harbour near Island House, Kiu Ling Ha, Castle Peak Bay, and Gindrunkers' Bay. (Note: Part of Sha Tin Hoy should be reserved as a residential area to provide for the expansion of Kowloon, and Gindrunkers' Bay would be an excellent industrial area.)

Government might consider it worth while to approach the contractors who are awarded the air port contract and ask them to investigate the possibility of their undertaking this work for no cash payment but on the basis of a proportion of the land reclaimed being given to them. Other methods of financing the suggested reclamation projects may occur to members of the Committee.

3. Roads. Bull-dozers could be used in the first stages of the construction of roads and bicycle tracks in the outlying districts. Could we not have a grant for this purpose?

Yours sincerely,

Horace Kadoorie.

嘉道理父子洋行 聖佐治行 三樓