

when it escorted the two illfated Canadian regiments in 1941. He later served aboard corvettes and frigates in the North Atlantic, and left the Navy in 1959. He was first posted to Hong Kong in 1960. Two years later he was posted to New Delhi, only to return to Hong Kong in 1965 as Superintendent of the Canadian Immigration Service. The former Ordinary Seaman was now the highest ranking Canadian representative in Hong Kong. The Waleses checked into the Mandarin Hotel until their official residence was made ready.

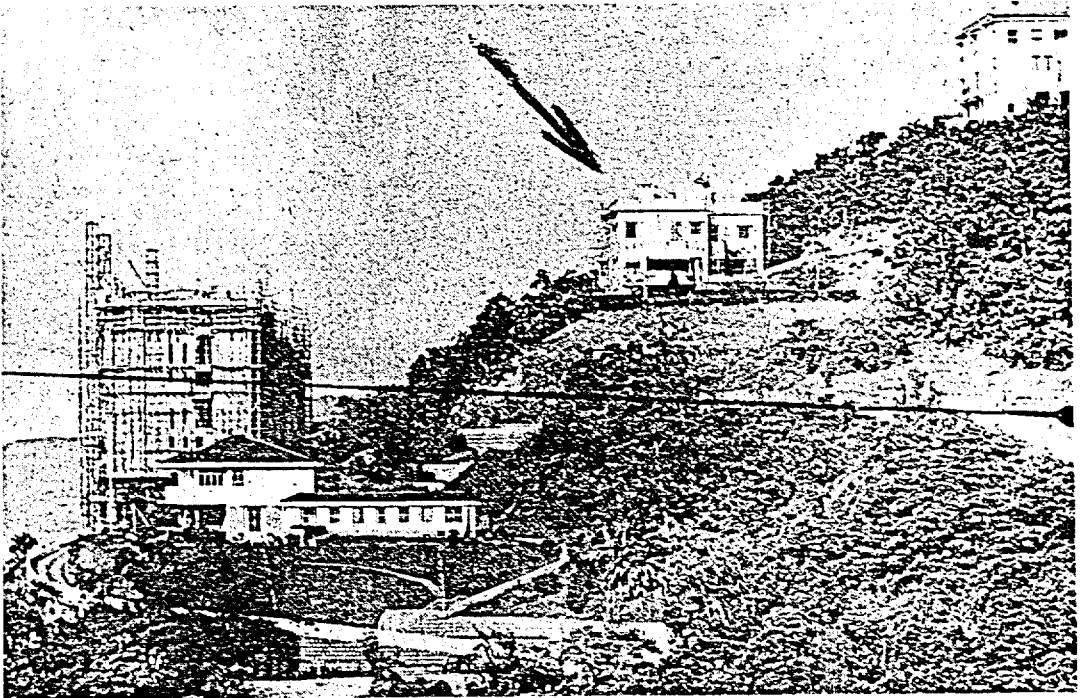
It was an opportune time to be Commissioner. The Colony had fully recovered from the effects of the 1967 riots, and the low paid refugees were providing owners with a competitive edge in the booming manufacturing sector. Gone were the armies of beggars that used to haunt the streets, fewer were the shanty towns of squatters, most absorbed into the new housing estates. In 1967, the average per capita income was HK\$2,639; four years later it was HK\$5,000. Rickshaws were being replaced by Rolls Royces, starvation by twelve course dinners. The growth of a middle class, the upward mobility of profes-

sionals, and the spread of education and rising expectations among the young, made Hong Kong second only to Tokyo as an Asian centre.

The Commission too was expanding. As proposed by the inspection team, the Administrative Officer, E.P. Foychuk, had been actively looking for new office accommodation. Foychuk estimated correctly that to fulfil the proposals of the inspection team, the Commission would require at least 20,000 sq. ft. The Trade Commissioner, J.A. Langley, cautioned on moving out of Central, as all their contacts were in that area. The search was on.

The summer of 1972 was not a good one, however. The worldwide recession caused a downturn in Hong Kong's economy, and the summer was the wettest in the Colony's history. Tragically, First Secretary Wayne Hubble was killed in a Japan Air Lines crash that June, and a week later the Official Residence was demolished to prevent it toppling into the house below.

The Senior Trade Commissioners had lived in a large house on Severn Road as early as 1956, when Forsyth-Smith had liked



A news photo at the time was captioned, "A distant view of the houses in the Barker Road and Severn Road area, giving a general idea of how the house in Severn Road could have affected the houses below if it had toppled down. From left: 22C Barker Road, 31 Barker Road, 3 Severn Road (arrowed) and 60-62 Plantation Road. All the four buildings have been closed."