CHRISTMAS ISLAND

The Acting Chief Minister, Che Abdul Hamid bin Haji Junat gave the following answer to a question tabled by Mr. Lim Choon Mong (Member for Serangoon) at the Legislative Assembly meeting this morning regarding the transfer of Christmas Island to Australia.

"The Christmas Island referred to lies in the Indian Ocean some 800 miles to the south of Singapore. The Island does not belong to Singapore.

"The Singapore Government was notified of the decision of the United Kingdom Government to affect the transfer and accordingly noted the position."

Asked if Christmas Island had not in fact come under the definition of the Island of Singapore and it had been administered by the Singapore Government, the Acting Chief Minister said: "For administrative reasons, Christmas Island was transferred to the administration of Singapore in 1900 but I should like to draw the attention of the Member for Serangoon that Christmas Island has been excluded from the Rendel Constitution Report. It will be remembered that the Progressive Party was represented at this Commission and it was a signatory to that report."

June 19, 1957. (Time issued 1115 hours)

S.I.T. FLATS

The Acting Chief Minister, Che Abdul Hamid bin Haji Junat, this morning answered a question tabled by the Member for Serangoon, Mr. Lim Choon Mong, at the Legislative Assembly meeting regarding the new Singapore Improvement Trust flats in the Albert Street, Princep Street and Short Street area.

The Acting Chief Minister said it was not proposed to reduce the rents of $30/35 a month to the levels of rentals of $10 to $20 now being paid by the residents of houses shortly to be demolished.

"The White Paper on Housing Subsidy Policy gives the method of subsidising public housing which Government is following and in the case of flats now being built under S.I.T. Programme No. 8 for rentals of $30/35 per month, Government is paying a rent subsidy of say $30 to $40 on each flat each month. This means the rents of these flats would be between $60/$75 per month," he said.

In answer to Mr. John Ede (Member for Tanglin) regarding nomination to the Board of Trustees of the S.I.T., the Acting Chief Minister said the only appointment to the Board of Trustees made by the Governor-in-Council is that of the Chairman under subsection (1) of Section 5 of the Singapore Improvement Ordinance. Mr. Fraser was first appointed as Chairman with effect from Sept. 1, 1956. The Minister does not make appointments to the Board.

June 19, 1957. (Time issued 1115 hours)