

New home soon for Phase II depending on court judgment

POPULAR Woodbrook steelband Phase II Pan Groove may soon find itself a new home near the National Stadium depending on the outcome of court action filed against the band in December by a city attorney-at-law.

If the judgment goes against the band and the Port-of-Spain City Corporation — against whom action was taken also — and Phase II has to move, the move may take place before next Carnival season.

Phase II, whose panyard has been on city land at Hamilton Street, Woodbrook since 1973, has been holding discussions with City Hall over the past six to nine months regarding an alternative location. Plans to move escalated this year after a city attorney-at-law — who lives in Woodbrook — took action against the band for allegedly disturbing the peace.

Loud Noise

Johanna Koorn did so in December 1988 when she claimed that the band's practice sessions at its panyard were disturbing residents of the surrounding area.

She filed an injunction to stop Phase II playing music after midnight. Ms Koorn, who had lodged several complaints about noise since 1987, filed her court action against the Mayor and the City Corporation, citing loud and continuous noise late into the night, flying bottles, stones being pelted and alleged marijuana smoking.

This week, City Mayor Augustus Williams said that the Corporation is

awaiting a decision on the Koorn court action which has been postponed to next month. It is on the basis of this decision that the authorities will proceed.

Williams said: "Phase II wants to remain in its current location and have its position regularised, but if the judge rules that the band must move, then we have to look at alternative sites and the plot of land near the Stadium may be the choice."

Since city land is scarce, he said, there are few al-

ternative spots up for consideration which could be suited to the band's needs. It will also depend on whether Central Government intends to use the same spot — which is now vacant — for its own plans.

It is understood that proposals have been submitted to develop the same piece of land — behind Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive School — with a swimming pool, carpark and/or training ground for the Stadium.