

Ground Has Been Broken

O. K. Assured for Watergate Towne

By MARTHA STRAYER

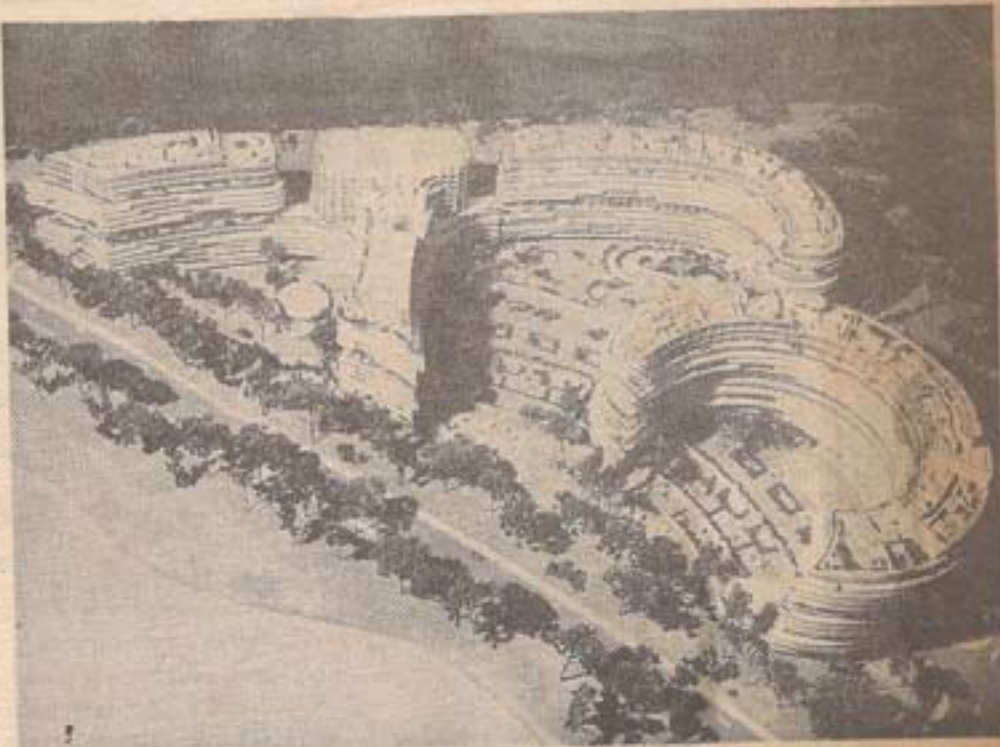
After being shuttled back and forth among District authorities for several years, the \$66 million Watergate Towne development has finally been assured of approval and ground has been broken for the first building in this large project.

The developers, a syndicate with headquarters in Rome, had difficulty securing approval from the various local planning agencies because the site, facing the Potomac River and fronting the Rock Creek Potomac Parkway, at Virginia and New Hampshire ave nw, is highly desirable. No buildings can ever block its view of the river. No other apartment or hotel is located on the Rock Creek-Potomac Parkway.

PERMIT

Harold A. Lewis of the Riverview Realty Co., sales agency for the Rome syndicate, said D.C. authorities have issued an excavation permit for the first of five buildings to be erected within the next five years, and the National Fine Arts Commission has assured the developers that their design will be approved on Feb. 18.

The design already had the approval of the D.C. government, the National Capital Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission before the Fine Arts group was reorgan-



—News Staff Photo

New model of Watergate Towne.

ized, by the late President Kennedy.

The new Commission reversed the action of its predecessor, and withdrew approval of the project.

Mr. Lewis said the design has now been changed to meet the new Commission's requirements.

SHORTENED

He said the new Commission demanded that the height of the tallest building be reduced from 14 to 13 stories.

The first building to be completed next year will be a luxury co-op apartment. Prices will range from \$16,000 for efficiencies to \$100,000 for penthouse apartments.

The project, when completed, will include five apartment buildings, a residential hotel, three restaurants, a shopping center and an underground parking garage for 1300 cars. Part of the underground garage will be built concurrently with the first co-op, so apartment owners will be served.

The architect for the development is Luigi Moretti of Rome. Developer is the Watergate Development Corp, a subsidiary of the Rome syndicate.

Mr. Lewis said the design of the project is so unique and outstanding that architects from across the country have come to look at the model, which is

at the Riverview Realty Co., 2700 Virginia-av nw.