

to 250 by 1981. As more institutionalized persons are moved to community group settings, state officials admit, fewer employes will be needed.

The union's complicated suit is as yet unsettled, but state and UCP leaders have decided to proceed anyway with a plan first sought by parents in March as a way to improve conditions for the retarded of Willowbrook.

State officials finally agreed to it, saying they, too, hoped that by bringing Willowbrook down to a more manageable size, care for all of the residents at the troubled institution would get better.

The arrangement between UCP and the mental hygiene agency calls for the state to relinquish complete operational authority over four of five buildings which constitute the baby unit.

In addition, three facilities — Building 12, 13 and 15 will be subject to shared staffing arrangement, with UCP responsible for the supervisors and the state for clinical staff.

Robert Schonhorn, UCP's executive

director, said yesterday the 641 affected residents are mostly young, many of them incapable of eating by themselves and most not even toilet trained.

Schonhorn explained that the first six months of UCP operation will be partially devoted to a massive cleanup.

There will be intensive efforts, according to Schonhorn, to escalate the level of programming each resident receives, with schedules revamped to meet each individual's need. Additionally, Schonhorn added, the medication regimens of the 641 residents will be reevaluated at once.

Schonhorn, who has yet to name a director for the UCP-run Willowbrook complex, said his newly hired staff has been asked to report to work tomorrow at 9 a.m. for two days of orientation.

On Saturday, he said, they will take over operation of the selected buildings, working in concert with Willowbrook workers for five days. Then, on Thursday, state staff is to report to new assignments, Schonhorn explained.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Wednesday, September 7, 1977

Reassignment to begin for affected workers

A spokesman for the Department of Mental Hygiene said information would be released today concerning the redeployment of state workers following a planned takeover of seven Willowbrook Developmental Center buildings by the United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York.

But the spokesman maintained that the estimated 700 employes affected in the takeover all had been reassigned — some to other buildings where staffing had been at a deficit, others to a new "pool," created to replace absent workers or employes on leave.

She added that a contingency plan would be put into effect if unhappy workers make good on a threat to lock UCP out of the buildings it intends to take over.

"We're hoping this arrangement will be good for everyone," the spokesman concluded, adding that the hope is "care will improve all around."

Under the takeover, the private palsy group and its executives are to become accountable to the federal court, and like Gov. Carey, various Department of Mental Hygiene and Willowbrook officials, UCP will be named a defendant in an ongoing lawsuit, which was brought to improve conditions at the 384-acre institution.