

## **Navy's not ready to ship out here yet, say feds**

By MICHAEL AZZARA

Contrary to a report last week that the Navy Resale Office is set to move from Brooklyn to Willowbrook, the decision on a new site is not final, a spokesman for the General Services Administration confirmed today.

The office, which employs between 750 and 800, has been seeking to relocate from a dilapidated building on the Brooklyn waterfront for several years. It is headquarters for the Navy's worldwide chain of commissaries and exchanges.

Congressman John M. Murphy announced Wednesday that Navy officials had selected buildings within the sprawling Staten Island Developmental Center. Murphy said the office should be operating at the Willowbrook facility in two years.

The Advance learned, however, that while Murphy was making his announcement, a meeting was taking place among officials of the General Services Administration and the Navy Department. GSA, which has been trying to lure the Navy office to a building at 201 Varick St., Manhattan reported to continue to press for the Varick St. location.

The Manhattan building is in need of repair and renovation and officials of GSA, the federal government's house-keeping agency, informed the Navy brass that money is available for the work, according to federal government sources.

Murphy, who had blocked the Navy's original proposal to move into four buildings in Fort Wadsworth, released a letter from Acting Navy Secretary James Woolsey informing the congressman of the decision on Willowbrook.

In the letter, Woolsey said the Navy has asked GSA to open negotiations with the state for a lease.

The GSA spokesman, Warren Gardner, said that the decision is not the Navy's alone. "It is a joint decision," he said. "It will be made by GSA and the authorizing agency, in this case the Navy."

Asked whether the GSA has given up on Varick St. and is now going along with Willowbrook, Gardner would only say: "It's true that we originally recommended 201 Varick St. We haven't made a decision."