

Disturbance at the Hei Ling Chau Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
Recommendations of the Board of Enquiry

Purpose

This information note presents the recommendations made by the Board of Enquiry of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) on the disturbance at Hei Ling Chau Drug Addiction Treatment Centre (HLTC) occurred on 4 June 2000.

2. Having regard to the provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), the need to safeguard prison security and to avoid any prejudice to criminal proceedings against inmates or disciplinary proceedings against CSD officers, the wording of the recommendations, in paragraph 3 below, has been adjusted as necessary.

Recommendations of the Board of Enquiry

3. The Board of Enquiry has made a total of 27 recommendations. They are as follows –

Staff conduct and discipline

- (1) A CSD officer be disciplined for his negligence in the handling of unauthorized articles in a dormitory in HLTC.
- (2) The same CSD officer be disciplined for the unattended movement of Vietnamese inmates placed under his immediate charge.
- (3) Two CSD officers be warned for general staff complacency amongst their subordinates.
- (4) A CSD officer be warned for his poor sense of security and alertness to the existence of unauthorized articles at HLTC.

- (5) The same CSD officer be disciplined for his failure to carry out his duties in taking command of the Control Room during the disturbance.
- (6) A CSD officer be warned for the perfunctory performance of his duties in the daily inspection of HLTC.
- (7) A CSD officer be advised to review his management style and to improve his management skills.
- (8) The same CSD officer be warned for the inmates' possession of unauthorized articles at HLTC.
- (9) The same CSD officer referred to in sub-paragraphs (7) and (8) above be disciplined for his failure to properly carry out his duties in connection with the handling of the disturbance.
- (10) A CSD officer be warned for the lax supervision exerted over senior officers of HLTC.

Commendations

- (11) A CSD officer be commended for the exceptional devotion to duties in the Control Room during the disturbance.
- (12) A CSD officer be commended for the courageous and exceptional performance of duties in the Control Room during the disturbance.
- (13) A CSD officer be commended for the devotion to duties displayed in saving an inmate from assault during the disturbance.
- (14) A CSD officer be commended for exceptional professionalism and leadership in saving some injured Police officers during the disturbance.
- (15) A CSD officer be commended for leadership and professionalism throughout the disturbance.

- (16) The Commanders of the Police, Fire Services Department (FSD) and CSD be commended for their professionalism in the discharge of their duties in restoring order.

Inmates

- (17) The inmates identified to be rioters be removed from normal association under Prison Rule 68B, until their behaviour shows genuine improvement conducive to their corrective rehabilitation.

Management of HLTC

- (18) Internal partition fences be erected at vantage points to fortify the management of inmates.
- (19) The management of HLTC to consider relocating the liquefied petroleum gas store, possibly outside the main centre complex to enhance security and safety.

Emergency response and prison security

- (20) The operational guidelines pertaining to the handling of emergency situations be reviewed with due consideration to the remoteness of outlying island institutions.
- (21) More training be provided to senior officers in CSD in the handling of emergency situations in accordance with the Emergency Organization Handbook.
- (22) CSD to consider the option of contracting out sea transport to improve the response time in the mobilization of CSD's Emergency Support Group during emergencies.
- (23) CSD to purchase a mobile communication set capable of setting up an independent radio communication system by reinforcement staff.
- (24) The security of Control Rooms across CSD, in particular that of HLTC, be critically reviewed.

Design of rehabilitation programmes and others

- (25) In devising programmes for inmates of younger ages, the emotions and feelings of unrest should be taken into consideration to forestall the potential outbreak of collective disruptive behaviour.
- (26) The location of large scale penal institutions in remote areas which are inaccessible to land transport should be avoided in the future design of penal institutions.
- (27) The Psychological Unit to hold post-trauma debriefing sessions for involved staff as appropriate.

Security Bureau
November 2000

*L:/B1/Incident/HLC/Recomm.doc
Revised on 27.11.2000am*