

EXTRACT

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1114/01-02

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE/1

LegCo Panel on Security

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 17 January 2002
at 10:45 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)
Hon LAU Kong-wah (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP

Member attending : Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

Members absent : Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Public Officers attending : Item III
Mr TSANG Yam-pui
Commissioner of Police

Mr LAU Chun-sing
Director of Crime and Security
Hong Kong Police Force

Item IV

Ms Mimi LEE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics)

Dr Cindy LAI
Assistant Director of Health

Mr CHAN Yiu-ming
Statistician
Security Bureau

Item V

Mr Timothy TONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Security 1

Miss Pamela LAM
Assistant Secretary for Security E1

Mr Albert LAI Kwok-ying
Director of Finance, Administration and Planning
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Michael B DOWIE
Regional Commander
New Territories South
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms Barbara R WILLISON
Chief Superintendent
Planning and Development Branch
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr LEE Yeung-chi
Superintendent
Weapons Training
Hong Kong Police Force

Mrs Marigold LAU
Project Director
Architectural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Sharon TONG
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)1

Staff in attendance : Mr Raymond LAM
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)5

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V. New Territories South Regional Police Headquarters and Operational Base at Tsuen Wan

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 833/01-02(04))

56. Deputy Secretary for Security 1 (DS for S1) informed Members that besides the advantages as detailed in the Administration's paper, the proposal to construct a purpose-built regional Police headquarters and operational base at Tsuen Wan (the proposed project) would offer the advantages of -

- (a) relinquishing a site area of about 6 400 square metres in Tsuen Wan; and
- (b) creating 565 job opportunities.

57. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that although the New Territories (NT) Region had been divided into the NT South Region and NT North Region in the past, it was more appropriate from a geographical point of view to divide the NT Region into an east region and a west region.

58. Director of Finance, Administration and Planning, Hong Kong Police Force (DFAP) responded that the NT Region had been reorganised into a south region and a north region in the past for historical and operational reasons. He added that the Police was currently conducting a review on whether the existing delineation of Police regions would need to be revised. However, the results of the review would not affect the proposed project. He said that the NT North Regional Police Headquarters was currently located in Tai Po, while the NT South Regional Police Headquarters was located in Ma On Shan. This was very undesirable. Under the proposed project, the NT South Regional Police Headquarters would be located in Tsuen Wan. If the NT Region was divided into an east region and a west region, the regional headquarters in

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Tsuen Wan would become the regional headquarters for the west region, while the regional headquarters in Tai Po would become the regional headquarters for the east region.

59. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about the necessity for the proposed indoor shooting range referred to in paragraph 14 of the Administration's paper. He also asked about the locations where Police officers in the region currently underwent training in shooting. Superintendent (Weapons Training), Hong Kong Police Force responded that Police officers in the NT South Region currently received such training in the shooting ranges located in NT North Region and Kowloon.

60. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong questioned whether there was an urgent need for the proposed project, especially at a time of poor economic condition.

61. DFAP responded that due to the limitation of resources, the construction of the regional headquarters for the NT South Region had been deferred for nearly 10 years. The Administration considered it an appropriate time to launch the project. He said that financial resources had been secured within the Administration for the proposed project.

62. Regional Commander (New Territories South), Hong Kong Police Force added that there had been incidents where difficulties in mobilising Police officers had complicated the situation. He said that when a major incident occurred in the Airport, inability to promptly command and control the support unit could result in serious ramifications. By moving the regional headquarters to Tsuen Wan, the Police would be able to react more quickly and prevent major problems.

63. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that with the advanced communication system currently deployed by the Police, mobilisation of the necessary Police officers should not be a problem regardless of where the regional headquarters were located. He stressed that under the presently poor economic climate, it was not an appropriate time to launch the proposed project, even if the necessary financial resources had been secured.

64. DS for S1 responded that the proposed project was necessary because of -

- (a) the rapid development and population increase on Lantau Island, and the forthcoming significant developments such as the Hong Kong Disneyland;
- (b) the fact that seven major facilities of the region were currently scattered in five locations, which was very undesirable; and
- (c) a severe shortage of space in the existing facilities, especially in the changing rooms, rooms for the storage of exhibits and video interview rooms.

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65. The Chairman considered the project cost of \$717 million very substantial, especially at a time of deficit in the budget. He requested the Administration to provide a detailed paper explaining the problems encountered with the existing facilities, the necessity for the project and the improvements to be brought about by the proposed project. To facilitate Members' understanding of the existing situation, the Chairman suggested that a visit to the existing facilities be organised for Members after the requested information was provided. His view was shared by Mr Albert HO. DS for S1 agreed to provide the requested information and arrange the suggested visit.

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Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 February 2002