

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1119/02-03

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/SE/1

Panel on Security

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 16 January 2003
at 10:45 am in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

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

Member attending : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Members absent : Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
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 Sidney CHAU
Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police

Item IV

Mrs Margaret CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr Charles WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics)

Mr John HUNTER
Deputy Principal Government Counsel

Ms Manda CHAN
Assistant Secretary for Security

Clerk in attendance : Ms Doris CHAN
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Bernice WONG
Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Miss Mary SO
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 8

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings and matters arising
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)849/02-03 and CB(2)847/02-03)

The minutes of the special meeting held on 5 November 2002 and the meeting held on 5 December 2002 were confirmed.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)846/02-03(01) and (02))

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting to be held on 13 February 2003 -

- (a) Rationalisation of Immigration Office Network; and
- (b) Problem of touting.

III. Crime situation in 2002

3. Members noted the crime statistics tabled at the meeting.

Action

(*Post-meeting note* : The crime statistics tabled at the meeting were circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 945/02-03 on 17 January 2003.)

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Commissioner of Police (CP) took members through the statistics tabled and briefed members on the crime situation in 2002, as detailed in the speaking note in the **Appendix**.

5. Mr Howard YOUNG noted that in order to clamp down on the rise in the number of Mainland visitors arrested for crimes committed in Hong Kong, the Police had had discussion with the Guangdong Public Security Bureau (PSB) on measures to prevent Mainland visitors who had been arrested for crimes in Hong Kong from re-entering. Mr YOUNG said that the Police should not overly rely on the Guangdong PSB to curb the problem, as not all Mainland visitors were from the Guangdong Province. Moreover, as a result of the relaxation of the policy for Mainlanders to travel to Hong Kong, two-way permits (TWPs) were getting easier to obtain, and this in turn had given rise to abuse. For instance, there had been cases whereby Mainlanders barred from re-entering could somehow obtain a TWP under a new name in a different province. In the light of this, Mr YOUNG was of the view that heightened preventive measures should also be taken by the Hong Kong side. For instance, the Immigration Department should step up efforts to screen Mainland visitors with suspicious travel documents at the immigration control points.

6. CP responded that the Police would continue to keep a close eye on the development of Mainland visitors involved in crimes, as well as prostitution and illegal work, in Hong Kong. Exerting more stringent immigration control was certainly one way to deal with the problem. CP further said that apart from holding discussions with the Guangdong PSB on measures to prevent Mainland visitors who had been arrested for crimes, prostitution and illegal work from re-entering, consideration was also being given to extending this arrangement to other areas outside Guangdong Province. Discussion had also been held with the Ministry of Public Security for the latter to disseminate information on people who had been arrested for crimes, prostitution and illegal work in Hong Kong to all Public Security authorities in the Mainland, so that no TWPs would be issued to these people.

7. Mr James TO said that merely relying on the Ministry of Public Security to disseminate information on people who had been arrested for crimes, prostitution and illegal work in Hong Kong to all Public Security authorities in the Mainland was not enough. The Police should visit the Public Security authorities in other provinces, other than that in the Guangdong Province, to seek their co-operation on implementing measures to prevent Mainland visitors who had arrested for crimes, prostitution and illegal work from re-entering.

8. Mr James TO asked whether any analysis had been made on crimes involving the use of genuine firearms in Hong Kong. CP replied in the negative, as the number of crimes concerned was too small for any meaningful analysis to be made. For instance, only eight crimes involving the use of genuine firearms were recorded in 2002. Of these eight crimes, four were robbery cases and four were non-robbery cases, including two homicide cases. In addition, 23 genuine firearms, including

Action

those used in the four robbery cases, were seized by the Police. CP further said that although the number of crimes involving the use of genuine firearms in Hong Kong was very small compared with other major cities around the world, the Police would maintain the fight against firearm-related crimes. As the culprits were mainly from the Mainland, the Police would continue to maintain a close liaison with its Guangdong counterparts in exchanging information on suspects and forensic evidence in cases relating to the use of firearms.

9. Mr James TO noted that 23 genuine firearms were seized by the Police in 2002, as opposed to 14 in 2001. Mr TO wondered whether this was due to effective exchange of intelligence between the Police and its Mainland counterparts or there had been a rise in the number of people attempting to use firearms to commit crimes.

10. CP responded that the reason for the higher number of genuine firearms seized in 2002 than in 2001 was due to closer co-operation and more effective exchange of intelligence between the Police and its Mainland counterparts. This, in turn, had enabled the Police to successfully apprehend the armed culprits before they had any opportunity to pursue their plots. CP further said that combating firearm-related crimes would continue to be the top priority of the Police in 2003, having regard to the facts that Hong Kong, being an affluent place, was an attractive place to Mainland criminals and that it was not difficult to procure firearms in the Mainland.

11. Dr LUI Ming-wah noted that there was very small variance, i.e. less than 10%, between the crime rates of different types of crimes in 2001 and 2002, save that of crimes such as robbery with pistol-like object, bank robbery, goldsmith/watch shop robbery and those which involved Mainland visitors. Similar phenomenon also occurred in the numbers of juveniles and young persons arrested for crimes in 2001 and 2002. In the light of this, Dr LUI wondered whether this was due to the fact that some people had the tendency to break the laws when they reached a certain age. Dr LUI then asked whether any study had been conducted by sociologists to find out why the overall crime rate remained at practically the same level in the past ten years. Dr LUI considered such a study necessary, as the overall crime rate could be brought down if the reasons why juveniles and young persons involved in criminal activities were better understood. Dr LUI also asked why the overall crime detection rate was on the decline from 1993 to 2002 when the overall crime rate remained by and large the same during the same period.

12. CP disagreed that the overall crime rate was practically the same in the past ten years. Although the fluctuation was small, there had been ups and downs in the overall crime rate from year to year. For instance, the violent crime rate was lower than that before Reunification. CP explained that the reason for the small fluctuation in the overall crime rate in the past ten years, despite the facts that the society had become increasingly more complex and there had been a rise in the population, was mainly attributed to a more efficient Police Force. Similarly, the reason why the number of juveniles and young persons arrested for crimes stayed at the present low level was due to vigorous actions taken by the Police, the Fight Crime Committee (FCC) and the 18 District Fight Crime Committees to combat juvenile and youth crime.

Action

13. On the question of whether any study had been conducted by sociologists to find out why the overall crime rate had come about, CP replied in the negative. CP, however, pointed out that FCC had commissioned expert studies from time to time, as needed, on why people involved in a specific type of crime. FCC also attached great importance to addressing juvenile and youth crime, and numerous studies in this regard had been made. CP further said that he could not agree with the comments that some people had the tendency to break the laws when they reached a certain age. However, there were indeed some ex-prisoners who habitually committed the same offences throughout their lifetimes.

Admin

14. As regards the crime detection rate, CP disagreed that it was on the decline. Rather, there had been small ups and downs in the crime detection rate, which was normal. CP further said that the crime detection rate of Hong Kong compared favourably with other major cities around the world. For instance, the overall crime rate and the overall violent crime detection rate of 42.7% and 52.3% respectively recorded in 2002 were one of the highest amongst other major cities around the world. At the request of the Chairman, CP undertook to provide information on the overall crime detection rate of Hong Kong and other cities after the meeting.

15. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed his gratitude for the hard work of the Police in preventing and combating crimes. Mr CHEUNG, however, expressed concern that the violent crime rate had increased by 3.6% whereas the violent crime detection rate had dropped by 0.8% in comparison with 2001. In the light of this and having regard to Hong Kong's increased integration with the Mainland, Mr CHEUNG urged the Police to step up enforcement actions against violent crime, particularly those involving the use of firearms by Mainland visitors. Mr CHEUNG pointed out that the recent case of a Hong Kong businessman shot dead in the Lok Yu Teahouse by a man who spoke Putonghua had aroused great public concern that violent crimes involving Mainland visitors were on the rise. Such a concern was aggravated by the difficulty for the Police to catch the culprits once they returned to the Mainland.

16. CP responded that it was one of the top priorities of the Police to maintain the fight against violent crimes, particularly those involving firearms. With the improved co-operation with the Mainland authorities and close vigilance on the activities of Mainland visitors in Hong Kong, CP was confident that the number of violent crimes involving Mainland visitors could be contained if not reduced. CP further said that no effort would be spared in the investigation of violent crimes, and good progress had been made in some of these cases. For instance, as a result of huge deployment of Police force to find two girls found missing in Yuen Long last month, the Police was able to arrest the culprit and charge him with murder within a short time. The Police, however, would not set a deadline for detecting a particular violent crime, which was impracticable.

17. Mr Michael MAK commended the Police for its work in making Hong Kong one of the safest cities in the world. Mr MAK then enquired about the measures taken by the Police on crime prevention.

Action

18. CP responded that different approaches were adopted by the Police to prevent different types of crimes. For instance, under the auspices of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, the Narcotics Bureau worked in tandem with the Customs and Excise Department, Department of Health, Social Welfare Department, Education Department and non-governmental agencies, amongst others, on educating the public about the danger of drug abuse. On prevention of quick cash crimes, which was one of the priorities of the Police in 2003, a set of guidelines had already been issued to all Regional Police Headquarters and frontline police on measures to prevent such crimes. These measures were underpinned by deployment of resources to facilitate the work, better exchange of intelligence, closer co-operation with the Mainland and overseas authorities and raising the awareness of security guards and housing estate managers in the private sector about such crimes. CP further said that the success of crime prevention could not be achieved by Police alone, and public support was crucial. It was gratifying that work on educating the public on crime prevention had been effective, as evidenced by the fact that over 10% of the crime cases detected in 2002 were due to people coming forward to provide information on these cases.

19. Mr MAK further enquired about the actions which would be taken by the Police to achieve the Government's goal of cutting public spending by 10% in 2006-07 to help eliminate the fiscal deficit.

20. CP responded that he could not give an answer to Mr MAK's question, as no decision had yet been made as to how much savings each policy bureau and government department must make to achieve the Government's goal of cutting public spending by 10% in 2006-07 to help eliminate the fiscal deficit. The Police was presently examining ways of optimising the use of resources, say, through rationalisation of services, streamlining of work procedures and contracting out of civilian work, with a view to avoiding reducing the number of frontline police as far as possible. CP further said that it was the Police's stance that under no circumstances should the number of frontline police be reduced to a point where this would adversely affect the safety and security of Hong Kong.

21. Mr Albert HO urged that the number of frontline police should not be reduced in an attempt to save costs, in view of the upsurge in the number of domestic disputes brought about by the economic downturn. Mr HO expressed concern that more tragedies would occur if the Police should refrain from intervening in domestic disputes because of lack of manpower.

22. CP shared Mr HO's view that demand on frontline police to intervene in domestic disputes had increased during economic downturn when domestic violence was more prominent. Apart from this, legislation on anti-littering and the impending legislation on anti-smoking had increased and would further increase the workload of frontline police. CP reiterated that the Police would endeavour to maintain the strength of its frontline police as far as possible. To this end, efforts would be made to achieve savings in backup services, say, through downsizing the administrative tier of police stations and contracting-out of non-police work such as catering service, non-

Action

operational transport service and guarding service at the courts. Mr Albert HO hoped that in so doing, regard would be made to ensure that this would not adversely affect support to frontline police.

23. Mrs Selina CHOW requested CP to provide information on the number of Mainland visitors arrested for crime, prostitution and illegal work in Hong Kong. To address the problem of Mainland visitors involved in crimes in Hong Kong, Mrs CHOW was of the view that it would be useful if the Police could follow up with the Mainland authorities which had issued TWPs to these Mainland visitors. Noting the increase in the number of thefts, with the exception of missing motor vehicles, in 2002 over 2001, Mrs CHOW asked about the measures which would be taken by the Police to address the problem, such as educating the youth against involving in these criminal activities. Mrs CHOW also asked what percentage of theft victims were overseas visitors. Mrs CHOW further said that the electronic signs cautioning the public against pickpockets were too overt and should be improved, as this might convey a wrong message to overseas visitors that Hong Kong was not a safe place.

Admin

24. CP undertook to provide the information requested by Mrs CHOW in paragraph 23 above. CP further said that it was also the Police's plan to discuss with the Mainland authorities which had issued TWPs to people arrested for crimes in Hong Kong. As regards the theft figures, CP reiterated that it was one of the priorities of the Police to combat quick cash crimes in 2003 and theft was one of them. CP further said that work on educating the youth against involving in criminal activities had borne fruit, as evidenced by the fact that the number of juveniles and young persons arrested for crimes had dropped by 9.7% and 1.9% respectively in 2002 over 2001. As to the electronic signs cautioning the public against pickpockets, CP said that the Police would examine ways to make them more subtle so as to avoid conveying a wrong message to overseas visitors that Hong Kong was not a safe place.

25. Miss Margaret NG asked whether the Police had conducted any assessment on the impact of pay cut on corruption by police officers. Miss NG further said that she had reservation about contracting out the provision of security service at the courts, as private security guards would merely look upon their jobs as manning office buildings. Moreover, there were merits for police officers to continue the security duty at the courts as this would reinforce their commitment in upholding law and order in Hong Kong.

26. CP responded that no assessment on the impact of pay cut on corruption by police officers had been conducted at this stage, as no decision had yet been made on the pay cut, and if so, how much. CP, however, pointed out that the Police Force would accept a pay cut if it was within an acceptable level and made under an acceptable mechanism. As regards contracting out of non-police work, CP said that it was the established practice of the Police to first conduct a pilot scheme on a particularly contract-out work to examine the pros and cons before deciding on the way forward.

Action

27. Mr James TO said that the Police, in vetting applications for featuring police uniform in a film, should not probe the content of the film so long as such act would not create a threat to Hong Kong's law and order. CP explained that the reason why the Police needed to carefully vet every application for featuring police uniform in a film was to ensure that the image of the Police would not be tarnished.

28. Responding to Mr Michael MAK's enquiry about the rate of victims not reporting to the Police, CP said that victimisation surveys conducted since the mid-seventies had revealed that the general public had trust and confidence in the Police. This was evidenced by the fact that Hong Kong's crime reporting rate was higher than that in many overseas jurisdictions.

29. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern that the confidentiality of police work would be undermined by contracting out of non-police work.

30. CP responded that there was no cause for concern that the confidentiality of police work would be undermined by contracting out of non-police work, as the Police had already had in place a set of proven measures to prevent such from happening. Not only would a pilot scheme be implemented to examine the pros and cons of a particular contracting-out project before deciding on the way forward, the contractor would be required to strictly adhere to a set of requirements set down by the Police.

IV. Stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise - United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) (Amendment) Bill

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)846/02-03(03) and (04))

31. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (PAS for S) briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)846/02-03(03)) which detailed the main legislative proposals to implement further measures against terrorism and terrorist financing in the stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise.

32. Miss Margaret NG said that the stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise should cover all issues raised by the Bills Committee on the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Bill (the Bills Committee), which the Administration had not been able to satisfactorily address because of the need to enact the Bill by the end of the last legislative session lest facing criticisms from the international community and sanctions from the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF). These included the following -

- (a) Scope of section 10 of the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (the Ordinance) was too wide as it would unnecessarily involve many people who were completely unrelated to terrorist organisations;
- (b) Freezing of property other than funds in the Ordinance was too wide, having regard to the fact that the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1373 only stipulated the freezing of funds and

Action

other financial assets or economic resources committed or attempted to commit a terrorist act;

- (c) Section 12 of the Ordinance, which imposed an obligation on "any person", was at variance with UNSCR 1373 and FATF as neither UNSCR 1373 nor FATF required Hong Kong to make a potential criminal of every ordinary citizen. FATF imposed the obligation only on "financial institutions, other business or entities subject to anti-money laundering obligations";
- (d) Powers of seizure, investigation and detention of authorised officers, which were deleted in the Committee Amendments stage in response to the concern of the Bills Committee on their wide powers, should be narrowed down and re-introduced by way of an amendment bill; and
- (e) Offences in the Ordinance should be amended as they lacked specific intent, the ingredient of which was essential in criminal offences.

33. PAS for S responded that there was a specified scope for the stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)846/02-03(03). She added that the exercise would also include a proposal to amend the existing section 10 of the Ordinance for the appropriate mens rea, as originally put forward by the Administration's Committee Stage amendment.

34. Miss Margaret NG, Mr Albert HO and Ms Cyd HO were adamant that all outstanding issues raised by the Bills Committee should be addressed in the stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise, as both the Secretary for Security and the then Deputy Secretary for Security had promised to do so during the Bills Committee meetings and the Council meeting of 10 July 2002 when the resumption of Second Reading debate on the Bill was held. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to further discuss the proposals to be included in the stage two anti-terrorism legislative exercise at the February meeting. To facilitate better discussion on the matter then, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide a paper setting out the concerns raised in respect of the Ordinance before its passage and how the Administration addressed the concerns. Miss NG also requested the Secretariat to provide a background paper on the issues raised by the Bills Committee and which the Administration had not adequately addressed.

Admin

Clerk

35. Due to time constraints, members agreed to also discuss the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)846/02-03(04)) on the review of the compensation provision under the Ordinance at the February meeting.

36. Ms Cyd HO said that the Administration had also agreed to review the anti-terrorism measures set out in the Ordinance periodically to ensure that they were in line with the international trend. Ms HO also said that both Australia and Canada had established a mechanism under which the government would report to the parliament on statistics on anti-terrorism cases, and requested the Administration to find out and to consider introducing a similar mechanism of providing statistical reports on cases

Action

pursued under the Ordinance.

Admin 37. PAS for S responded that it was the Administration's intention to review the anti-terrorism measures set out in the Ordinance periodically to ensure that they were in line with the international trend. PAS for S further said that the Administration would search for relevant information on the reporting mechanism in Australia and Canada and consider introducing a reporting mechanism as suggested by Ms HO.

38. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:45 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 February 2003

2002 CRIME, LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

THE OVERALL CRIME SITUATION

- A total of 75,877 crimes were recorded in 2002, an increase of 3.9 % over 2001 (73,008). It is, however, still lower than the numbers reported in 1999 and 2000.
- 14,140 Violent Crimes were recorded, a rise of 4.3% compared with 2001 (13,551). But the figure is still at a low level when compared with 2000, 1999 and 1998.
- The Overall Crime Rate (per 100,000 population) stood at 1,120.3, an increase of 3.2% compared with 2001.
- The Violent Crime Rate was 208.8. Despite a 3.6% rise compared with 2001, it was the second lowest in the past ten years.

Robbery

- Overall Robbery reports in 2002 increased by 10.3% to 3,493 cases.
- There were 4 cases of robbery where genuine firearms were used, with no significant change compared with 3 cases in 2001.
- Robberies where stun guns were used stood at 2 cases and robberies using pistol-like objects recorded 56 cases in 2002, these figures were the same as in 2001.

Bank Robberies

- Bank robberies (mainly by passing threatening notes) decreased by 20 cases from 54 in 2001 to 34 in 2002 (-37.0%). 10 cases (or 29.4%) have been detected with 6 culprits being arrested.
- In 19 (55.9%) of the 34 cases, the robbers failed in their attempts and fled empty handed.

Goldsmith/Watch Shop Robberies

- There were 6 Goldsmith/watch shop robberies in 2002, which was a significant drop from 11 cases in 2001 and are by far the lowest on record for the past 23 years.

Head-bashing Robbery

- Head-bashing robberies increased by 60 cases (+70.6%) to 145 in 2002 which is similar to that recorded in 1999 and 2000.
- The Police have taken steps to address the head-bashing robberies. A total of 16 cases were detected with 22 persons arrested (21 persons have been prosecuted). As a result of police actions, the situation has since been improved and the number of head-bashing robberies decreased from 29 cases in November to only 10 cases in December. The police will continue to take proactive actions in combating such type of crimes.

Burglary

- There were 8,211 cases of burglary in 2002, a decrease of 431 (-5.0%) compared with 2001, being the lowest figure in the past 23 years.
- The achievement was one of the results of the effective publicity and educational activities titled “Home Safety” launched by the police in conjunction with the Fight Crime Committee in 2002.

Homicide

- In 2002 the number of Homicide cases increased by 3 cases to 69.
- Amongst these 69 cases, 33 cases (or 47.8%) were domestic in nature and (7.2%) arose from violent crimes such as robbery or gang attack. In 10 domestic in nature cases, 10 children aged 12 and below were killed by their parents (excluding 2 cases of infanticide), compared with 9 in 2001.
- 55 (or 79.7%) of the homicide cases were detected.

Kidnapping

- There were 3 kidnapping cases compared with 6 in 2001 (-50%). All victims were safely rescued.

Wounding and Serious Assault

- There was an increase of 5.8% in the number of reported cases of this type compared from 6,472 cases in 2001 to 6,845 cases in 2002.
- The number of cases attributable to various disputes has remained stable at around 66.9 % of the total.
- 10.8% of the cases had Triad overtones. The increase in the percentage of such cases compared with 2001's 9.7% was an indirect result of the increased police enforcement actions which have confined the illegal activities of triads to limited area leading to increased conflict of interest and disputes through the use of violence.

Rape and Indecent Assault

- 95 Rape reports were made in 2002, the same figure as in 2001. The number of such reports remains stable.
- Over three quarters (83.2%) of the rape cases were committed by persons who were known to the victims.
- 991 Indecent Assault reports were recorded in 2002, a marginal decrease of 1.6% compared with the previous year.
- Of the Indecent Assaults in 2002, around 73.6% were committed by strangers. Majority of the cases occurred in crowded public places or on public transport whereby the offenders took advantage of these situations in the commission of this category of offence.

Serious Narcotics Cases

- There were 2,243 serious narcotics cases recorded in 2002, a decrease of 9.3% (-230 cases) compared with 2001.
- 2,903 persons arrested for serious narcotics offences in 2002, a decrease of 5.3% (-161 persons) when compared with 2001. The arrest of juveniles and young persons (under 21 years old) dropped 23.2% to 546 persons in 2002. Among these arrested juveniles and young persons, 90% were arrested in connection with psychotropic drugs.

Thefts

- All categories of thefts rose with the exception of theft of vehicles which has seen a decrease.
- 2,412 vehicles were reported stolen in 2002. This represents a fall of 150 vehicles (or 5.9%) from 2001. 59.2% (1,429 vehicles) were recovered. The recovery rate is higher than that in 2001.

Other categories of Thefts

- The figures for Snatching rose by 28.8%. Most of the stolen properties were mobile phones, handbags and wallets.
- Pickpocketing cases rose by 19.8%.

- Shop Theft rose by 8.7% to 8,122 cases. The value of the stolen property was under HK\$200 in 74.6% (or 6,060 cases) of the total shoptheft cases.
- Amongst the 7,766 persons arrested, 34.5% were unemployed which has shown an increase when compared with the figures recorded in 2001 (29.3%) and 2000 (29.1%).
- 28.1% were students and this percentage was lower than that recorded in 2001 (28.4%) and 2000 (30.4%).
- An analysis of the arrested persons revealed that the number of Mainland visitors has accounted for 2.7% of the total number of persons arrested for Shop Theft.
- Miscellaneous thefts also rose by 10.8%.

Deception

- 4,656 deception reports were recorded in 2002, an increase of 14.9 % when compared with 4,051 in 2001.
- Despite the rise in Street Deception, Bankruptcy Related Fraud and Bank Fraud involving Disruption of Telephone Services, other fraud-related crimes like Letters of Credit Fraud, Pyramid Scheme Related Fraud, Loco-London Gold Fraud and Modelling Agency Fraud have seen significant decreases.

Street Deception

- 811 street deceptions were reported in 2002, an increase of 30.2% when compared with 2001.
- A great majority of the swindlers came from the Mainland. Among the 205 persons arrested in 2002, over 94.1% of them were Two-way Permit holders.
- The M.O. adopted include 'blessing', 'dropped money', 'fake gold', 'valuable medicine' etc.
- As this type of crime was a great anxiety to the public, the police had spared no effort in the investigation of it. The Force has had discussions with Guangdong PSB on measures to prevent any Mainland visitors arrested for Crime in Hong Kong from re-entering. Consideration is also being given to extending this arrangement to other areas outside Guangdong.
- As a deterrent, the Police will apply for enhanced sentencing in respect of persons convicted in the District Court. Since 1999 (up to 2002-12-31), 51 out of 53 applications were successful with the sentences enhanced by ½ of the original sentence.
- Assistance has also been sought from the banking industries.
- Apart from increased publicity and education, in particular for the elderly, the Force will continue to step up patrols, analyse the cases reported and conduct intelligence-led operations at blackspots.
- As a result of stringent police actions, the situation of street deception has improved in the second half of 2002 (a drop of 30%).

Bankruptcy Related Fraud

- There was a sharp increase of 135.4% from 263 reports in 2001 to 619 reports in 2002. (The number of reports in 2000 was only 11.)
- Reports were largely made by banks and financial institutions concerning persons obtaining loans or credit cards by "misrepresenting their financial position". Most of the suspected fraudulent activities were unveiled when the debtors applied for bankruptcy.
- The amount of losses involved was HK\$47.5 million in 2002. (HK\$30.4 million in 2001.)
- The Police have prosecuted a total of 54 persons since 2000. 40 persons were

convicted with sentences imposed ranging from probation order/community service order to imprisonment up to 9 months.

Computer Crime

- 272 reports were recorded in 2002, an increase of 37 cases (+15.7%), when compared with 235 cases in 2001.
- "Access to Computer with Criminal or Dishonest Intent" noted the biggest increase from 81 to 139 cases (i.e. +71.6%).
- In 2002, 195 cases required the forensic examinations of 338 computers.
- 64 cases of e-fraud were recorded in 2002, a decrease of 1 case when compared with 65 cases recorded in 2001.
- Theft related to Internet Banking has been well contained with 6 cases (8 cases in 2001).

Juveniles and Young Persons Arrested for Crimes

- The number of juveniles (aged under 16) arrested for crime in 2002 was 5,335, a fall of 9.7% compared with 5,909 persons in 2001.
- The number of young persons (aged between 16 and 20) arrested for crime was 6,027, a drop of 1.9% compared with 6,145 for 2001.
- It is also pleasing to note that in 2002 the number of persons under 21 years of age arrested in connection with psychotropic drug cases has decreased by 23.9% to 1,577.

Illegal Immigrants

- In 2002 a total of 5,362 Illegal Immigrants (IIs) were arrested. This is a decrease of 35.6% when compared with 8,322 in 2001. The number is the lowest for the past 22 years.
- In 2002, 625 IIs were arrested for committing criminal offences, a substantial drop when compared with 999 IIs arrested for crime in 2001.
- The main types of crimes for which these IIs were arrested include Serious Immigration Offences, Robbery, Burglary and Possession of Offensive Weapons.

Mainland Visitors Involved in Crimes

- In 2002, 1,860 Mainland Visitors were arrested in Hong Kong, an increase of

47.0% when compared with the 1,265 persons arrested in 2001.

- The increase in the arrest figure is proportional to the increase in visitors from the Mainland.
- The number of Mainland visitors arriving in Hong Kong rose by 53.6% (from 4.29 million in 2001) to nearly 6.6 million in 2002. The ratio of arrests to the total number of Mainland visitors arrival remained stable at 3 arrests per 10,000 arrivals (i.e 0.03%). This ratio has remained at the same level since 2000.
- Most of the Mainland visitors were arrested for Serious Immigration Offences, opportunistic thefts and street level quick cash crimes such as Miscellaneous Theft, Forgery and Coinage, Deception, Shop Theft and etc.
- 7,322 prostitutes who were female Mainland visitors were arrested for 'Breach of Condition of Stay'. In 2001, there were 3,147 persons arrested.

Priorities in Combating Crimes in 2002

To Combat Violent Crimes where Firearms are Used

- The strategy adopted by the police is to apprehend the armed culprits before they have any opportunity to pursue their plots.
- In 2002, the police conducted a series of intelligence-led operations. 8 armed gangs were neutralized with a total of 33 suspects arrested and 23 genuine firearms seized. (compared with 14 genuine firearms seized in 2001).

The Abuse of Psychotropic Drugs by Young Persons

- In 2002, the Force has maintained strong and effective enforcement action against drug trafficking and abuse, especially psychotropic drugs, at the local, regional and international level.
- Sustained police actions have been taken against the source of supply, distribution network and the financial sources and support for drug trafficking activities.
- In 2002, a total of 5,212 persons were arrested in connection with psychotropic drug offences with 97.9 kg of 'Ketamine' and about 100,000 tablets of 'Ecstasy' seized and nearly 40 psychotropic drug storage and packing centres neutralized.
- The number of young persons (aged under 21) arrested for psychotropic drug offences has also dropped by 23.9%.

Triad Activities

- In the past year, the Force have taken high-profile and stringent action against triad gangs, in particular, their illegal activities and financial sources. During this period, the police conducted 15 undercover operations and 3 joint operations with Guangdong and Macau law enforcement agencies. As a result, 54 triad syndicates were neutralized, 3,144 persons arrested and over HK\$86 million crime proceeds restrained.
- Overall, police operations against triads have been effective in curbing their illegal activities like prostitution, illegal gambling, selling of pirated CD, loansharking, extortion, debt collection etc.

Priorities in Combating Crimes in 2003

- The Force have set 5 operational objectives to combat crimes in the coming year :

- (1) Maintain the fight against violent crime – particularly that which involves firearms;
- (2) Maintain the fight against triad-related violence;
- (3) Crackdown on ‘Quick Cash Crimes’ including head-bashing robberies, robberies, thefts and street level scams;
- (4) Reinforce our commitment to international efforts against terrorism;
- (5) Follow-up items :-
 - (a) Maintain enforcement action against psychotropic drugs and their abuse by young people;
 - (b) Maintain vigilance against crimes committed by illegal immigrants and two-way permit holders.

CONCLUSION

- The overall crime situation in 2002 has remained very steady and within a few percent of the good results achieved during the past few years. Our overall crime rate remains low. Despite the rises in ‘Quick Cash Crimes’, other crimes which are of concern to members of the public have remained at a low level or decreased.

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