

立法會
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LC Paper No. CB(2)1576/03-04

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Security

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2004
at 2:15 pm in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)
Hon WONG Yung-kan (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Member absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Public Officers attending : Item III

Mr LEE Ming-kwai
Commissioner of Police

Mr LO Yik-kee
Assistant Commissioner of Police

Item IV

Ms Winnie NG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (E)

Mr Charles WONG Doon-ye
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Service Quality)
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WONG Sai-chiu
Assistant Director
Operations Department
Independent Commission Against Corruption

Item V

Ms Winnie NG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (E)

Mr KOO Sii-hong
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support)

Mr MAK Man-poon
Regional Commander, Kowloon East
Hong Kong Police Force

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

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

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**I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
(LC Paper No. CB(2)956/03-04)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2003 were confirmed.

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II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)955/03-04(01) and (02))

2. Members agreed that the following items be discussed at the next meeting to be held on 12 February 2004 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Legislative proposals to amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221);
- (b) Proposed amendments to the criteria for issuing Security Personnel Permits; and
- (c) Monitoring of expenditure on "Reward and Special Services" of the Hong Kong Police Force.

3. Regarding an item on "Computer Systems for the Immigration Department at the New Control Point for the Hong Kong – Shenzhen Western Corridor" proposed by the Administration, members agreed that the Administration be requested to provide an information paper on the item before a decision was made on whether the subject matter should be discussed by the Panel.

4. The Chairman informed members that Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong had suggested the Panel to discuss issues relating to the recent incident involving the sale of juice mixed with hydrogen peroxide by a religious organisation. Members generally considered that, depending on the major area of concern, it was more appropriate for the subject matter to be discussed by the Panel on Home Affairs, the Panel on Education or the Panel on Health Services.

5. Members agreed that the item on "Follow-up on issues arising from the incident on 25 April 2002 where Police took action to stop the public meeting being staged in Chater Garden and media reporters were handcuffed" be deleted from the list of outstanding items for discussion.

6. Members also agreed that the Administration be requested to provide a paper on the smuggling and sale of illicit cigarettes in Hong Kong before deciding how the matter should be followed up.

III. Crime situation in 2003

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1024/03-04(01))

7. Members noted the statistics, which was tabled at the meeting, provided by the Police in response to members' request at the special meeting on 16 January 2004.

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(*Post-meeting note* : The statistics tabled at the meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1065/03-04 on 20 January 2004.)

8. Commissioner of Police (CP) apologised that owing to his misunderstanding, the arrangements for briefing the Panel and the media about the crime situation for 2003 differed from those in the past. He stressed that he and the Police had no intention of being disrespectful to the Panel. Statistics on the crime situation in 2003 were sent to members of the Panel on 15 January 2004 before a press conference on the subject matter was held in the afternoon. The Chairman hoped that the Police would in future continue its past practice of briefing the Panel on the crime situation for the previous year before briefing the media.

9. At the invitation of the Chairman, CP briefed members on the crime situation in 2003 and provided the following supplementary information -

- (a) the number of reported street deception cases had decreased from 811 in 2002 to 576 in 2003, representing a drop of 29%;
- (b) cases of computer-related crime increased from 272 in 2002 to 588 in 2003;
- (c) the number of Mainland visitors had increased by 24% from 6.78 million in 2002 to 8.42 million in 2003, among which 0.3% had been arrested for committing crime in Hong Kong;
- (d) since the introduction of the Individual Visit Scheme, 1.2 million individual visit endorsements had been issued by Mainland authorities and more than 670 000 visits had been made under the Scheme. Among these visitors, 92 were arrested for committing crime and other offences in Hong Kong;
- (e) as a number of Mainland visitors were victims of pickpocketing, the Police had strengthened publicity, through the Mainland authorities, on the precautions that should be taken by Mainland visitors; and
- (f) the Security Bureau, the Police and other government departments including the Fire Services Department had launched a two-month anti-terrorism exercise in the previous year.

10. The Chairman asked whether there were statistics on visitors who were victims of crime.

11. CP responded that although he did not have such information on hand, such cases were small in number.

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12. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about the reasons for the low overall crime detection rate. He asked whether it was related to Police manpower.

13. CP responded that the number of detected cases had continuously increased from about 32 000 in 1999 to 34 672 in 2003. The fall in overall detection rate was not related to Police manpower. It was due to an increase in the overall crime rate as well as an increase in minor crimes, such as theft of mobile phones, which were difficult to detect. To address the problem, the Police had considered measures such as reminding members of the public to take care of their belongings. He added that some countries were addressing the problem of theft of mobile phones through the use of new technology to prohibit the operation of a stolen mobile phone.

14. The Chairman said that besides the drop in crime detection rate, the number of violent crime cases detected in 2003 was also lower than that in 1994. CP responded that crime detection rate was only one of many aspects reflecting the work of the Police. Over-emphasis on crime detection rate might result in other areas being overlooked. The Chairman hoped that the Police would uphold the crime detection rate to demonstrate that even with reduced resources, it could maintain its performance.

15. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about the progress on the detection of cases where Police officers were killed with the use of pistols.

16. CP stressed that the Police had tried its best in its detection of every case. However, some cases took five to ten years to detect. He added that the Police had seized a number of pistols in operations launched in the previous year, some of which were found to have been used in Hong Kong some years ago, while others were smuggled from the Mainland or other places.

17. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that the overall crime figure in 1994 was close to that in 2003. He asked why the crime detection rate in 2003 was much lower than that in 1994.

18. CP responded that cases of miscellaneous theft had increased from about 11 000 in 1994 to more than 20 000 in 2003. Such cases were very difficult to detect and thus the crime detection rate had dropped.

19. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that some media had described Hong Kong as a paradise for pickpockets. He expressed concern that the tourism industry might be affected, if there were too many pickpocketing cases.

20. CP responded that the situation of pickpocketing in Hong Kong was not serious in comparison with those of many other countries. He informed members that such crime was mostly committed by local, Southeast Asian and

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American syndicates. The Police was considering stepping up publicity on the precautions against pickpocketing.

21. Mrs Selina CHOW said that many tourists still considered Hong Kong one of the safest cities in the world. She asked whether there was information on pickpocketing not committed by syndicates. She added that to her knowledge, the Police had conducted victimisation survey in the past to identify the situation where crime cases were not reported. She asked whether such surveys were still conducted.

22. CP responded that most pickpocketing were committed by syndicates. Where it was not sure whether an item was stolen, the case would be classified as "stolen or lost" cases. He added that victimisation surveys were conducted by the Security Bureau once every three to four years. Previous surveys revealed that three to four out of 10 crime cases were reported. Such a situation was not uncommon among other countries. The Chairman requested the Police to provide members with statistics about "stolen or lost" cases.

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23. Mrs Selina CHOW expressed support for publicity campaigns against pickpocketing. She asked whether the Police had launched such publicity campaigns in association with the private sector.

24. CP said that the Crime Prevention Bureau of the Police had collaborated with the private sector in launching crime prevention campaigns for many years. Officers of Regional Crime Prevention Offices also visited victims of burglary cases to advise on the precautionary measures that could be taken.

25. Mrs Selina CHOW asked whether the installation of closed-circuit television system (CCTV) inside shops would deter shop theft and whether the Police had called for shops to install CCTVs.

26. CP responded that CCTVs were widely used in shops and private premises. It had been found effective in deterring shop theft. Many shops were also deploying other anti-theft devices to combat shop theft.

27. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that there were press reports that the number of cases involving forged credit cards had increased from 36 in 1998 to 493 in 2003. He asked why such cases had increased sharply. He also asked how the Police addressed the problem of copying information stored inside a genuine credit card and use of a forged credit card containing such information in another place. He expressed concern that a large number of cases involving forged credit cards might have an adverse effect on the tourism industry and business sector in Hong Kong.

28. CP responded that 1 179, 2 204 and 1 599 forged credit cards were seized in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively. Most of these were forged cards

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containing information of overseas cardholders. He said that this was a serious international problem. The Interpol had expressed concern about such a problem and was developing a new system to analyse such crime. The Police had been discussing with card-issuing companies various ways to address the problem, such as using credit cards with microchips instead of magnetic tapes. He added that the number of forged cards seized was relatively small in comparison with the total number of credit cards issued.

29. The Chairman asked about the number of credit cards stolen. CP responded that the number of cases involving use of stolen or lost credit cards for cash withdrawal or purchases had decreased from about 1 600 in 2001 to about 1 200 in 2003. The total amount of money involved also dropped from about \$30 million in 2001 to about \$20 million in 2003. He said that the tourism and business sectors did not consider the problem a serious one.

30. Mr MAK Kwok-fung asked about the measures adopted by the Police in addressing the problem of youth crime.

31. CP responded that there was a drop in the number of juveniles and young persons arrested for crime. He said that the Police had collaborated with many other departments such as the Education Department (ED) and the Social Welfare Department as well as non-government organisations in addressing the problem of youth crime for many years and the results had been encouraging. In recent years, it had organised Smart Teen Challenge Camps with ED for youth at risk. The Junior Police Call also provided a range of healthy activities for young persons. The Chairman said that to his knowledge, the Commission on Youth chaired by Dr CHOY Yuen-wan had done a lot in the area. He requested the Police to provide members with information about the work of the Commission in this area.

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32. Mr MAK Kwok-fung and Mr WONG Yung-kan asked why there had been a marked increase in the quantity of Ecstasy-type tablets seized in 2003. Mr MAK also asked whether the statistics covered cases where a minor was cautioned under the Superintendent's Discretion Scheme.

33. CP responded that there was a marked increase in the quantity of Ecstasy-type tablets seized in 2003 because large quantities of such tablets were seized in three operations launched in the previous year. The statistics covered cases where a minor was cautioned under the Superintendent's Discretion Scheme. He informed members that the Police was addressing the problem of psychotropic substance abuse through publicity on the negative effects of psychotropic substances, as well as combating the trafficking and sale of psychotropic substances. Where there was information about places from which drugs were trafficked, the Police would communicate with the law enforcement agencies of the places concerned. He said that combating the

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trafficking and abuse of psychotropic substances was one of his operational targets for 2004.

34. Mr MAK Kwok-fung asked about the percentage of young people who committed crime after being cautioned under the Superintendent's Discretion Scheme. CP responded that it was around 14% to 18% between 1996 and 2000.

35. Dr LUI Ming-wah requested the Police to provide statistics about visitors arrested for committing crime in Hong Kong classified according to the places from which they came. He said that such information could be restricted to the reference of members, if necessary.

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36. CP responded that statistics on the number of Mainland visitors who committed crime had been included in the crime statistics at the request of the Chairman. Statistics about other visitors who had committed crime was maintained only in relation to organised and serious crime. He said that it might be difficult to restrict the entry of visitors from a place merely because many visitors from the place had committed crime in Hong Kong. He undertook to consider providing the statistics requested by Dr LUI, having regard to whether such disclosure would contravene human rights or international covenants. The Chairman asked whether there were places from which a large proportion of visitors had committed crime in Hong Kong. CP responded that there were such places in Southeast Asia and America.

37. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about the detection rate in respect of miscellaneous theft.

38. CP informed members of the following statistics relating to miscellaneous theft for the past three years -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of cases of miscellaneous theft</u>	<u>Number of cases detected</u>	<u>Detection rate</u>
2001	13 318	4 098	30.8%
2002	14 751	4 093	27.7%
2003	20 015	4 569	22.8%

39. CP stressed that the fall in crime detection rate was due to an increase in miscellaneous theft, such as theft of mobile phones, which were very difficult to detect.

40. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about CP's operational targets for 2004. CP responded that his operational targets for 2004 covered violent crime, triads, "quick cash" crimes, terrorism, trafficking and abuse of psychotropic substance, crime committed by illegal immigrants and Mainland visitors, and road safety.

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He undertook to provide members with information on his operational targets for 2004.

(Post-meeting note : The Commissioner's Operational Targets 2004 were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1060/03-04 on 20 January 2004.)

IV. Monitoring of Police officers associated with triad and undesirable elements and communication between the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption over allegations of corruption involving such elements

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)955/03-04(03) and (04), CB(2)1014/03-04(01) and (02))

41. At the invitation of the Chairman, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Service Quality) (ACP(SQ)) and Assistant Director (Operations), Independent Commission Against Corruption (AD(O)/ICAC) presented the papers provided respectively by the Police and ICAC.

42. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the subject matter arose from the case of SIN Kam-wah (SIN's case), where the undesirable element was the wife of a senior Police officer. He asked whether the Police considered that its monitoring mechanism could effectively prevent such undesirable association and if so, the reasons for taking such a view. He also asked whether the Police had learned any lesson from SIN's case.

43. ACP(SQ) responded that the Police General Orders (PGO) clearly stated that other than in the course of duty, a Police officer should not associate with known criminals or triad personalities. Police officers were also advised that they should not associate with persons of doubtful or undesirable reputation. Where such undesirable association was detected, the officers concerned might become the subject of criminal or disciplinary investigation.

44. ACP(SQ) said that the meaning of conflict of interest and the reporting requirements were clearly explained in the Force Procedures Manual in that a conflict of interest was likely to arise when an officer's loyalty to the Force conflicted with his loyalty to his family and other relations. An officer should therefore report to Assistant Commissioner of Police (Personnel) any private interest that might influence, or appear to influence, his judgment in the performance of his duties. PGO and section 10 of the Police Force Ordinance (Cap. 232) also spelt out the duty of a Police officer to prevent and detect crimes and, where necessary, carry out arrests. It followed that an officer who failed to take action in respect of any criminal activity within his knowledge might be in neglect of his duty. He added that the Police had adopted a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy aimed at eliminating corrupt practices including

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undesirable association through education, prevention and enforcement. In support of the strategy, a Force Anti-Corruption Strategy Steering Committee comprising senior officers of Police and ICAC was responsible for identifying and addressing those areas of police activity which might present opportunities for corruption through liaison meetings, case studies, review of procedures; training and education with emphasis on the Force values of honesty and integrity; and rendering full co-operation and assistance to ICAC in their enforcement actions against corruption within the Force. The mechanism was subject to regular reviews to ensure better management of the problems.

45. The Chairman asked whether the Police considered, in view of SIN's case, that there was a need for improving the existing mechanism for monitoring undesirable association.

46. ACP(SQ) responded that the Police had been reviewing whether there were areas that could be improved, including the mechanism for monitoring undesirable association. He added that the monitoring mechanism was overseen by an internal committee of the Police, which had suggested improvements to procedures and regulations in the past. He added that when Police officers, whether on or off duty, came into contact with undesirable characters pertaining to their duty, there were mechanisms for them to declare or report such contacts. There was also a Headquarters Order which stipulated a support system for the internal reporting of malpractice and corruption of other officers, i.e. whistle blowing. After SIN's case, the Police had considered ways to heighten the awareness of officers regarding these mechanisms and to encourage them to make greater use of such mechanisms. The Chairman requested the Police to provide members with the Police orders on reporting of undesirable association and the internal instruction encouraging Police officers to report cases of undesirable association. ACP (SQ) agreed but he added that the internal instructions on the mechanisms were still at the drafting stage and they could not be released at that stage.

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47. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that the Police's paper had not explained whether improvements had been made, in view of SIN's case, to the mechanism for monitoring undesirable association. He expressed concern about whether the existing monitoring mechanism was adequate especially for detecting undesirable association involving senior officers of the Police, and whether the Police would be cooperative or confrontational when ICAC discharged its duties in such cases.

48. ACP(SQ) responded that the existing mechanism was actually aimed at detecting such cases early within the Police. This involved introducing training and education of officers on the correct attitude; encouraging them to report cases of improper conduct and malpractice, including undesirable association; rendering support service to officers making such reports; and a Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) directing investigations into suspected

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cases identified by the intelligence network within the Police. He said that the Police had long been cooperative when the ICAC discharged its duties in such cases.

49. The Chairman asked why SIN's case had not been identified under the existing monitoring mechanism. ACP(SQ) responded that as there might still be judicial procedures on the case, he was not in a position to disclose further details.

50. The Chairman said that the Panel should hold another meeting to follow up issues relating to SIN's case. He said that the meeting could be held at a closed session, if necessary. Mr IP Kwok-him expressed reservations about discussing the matter at a closed session. He considered it more appropriate to discuss the issues at an open meeting after all judicial procedures on SIN's case were concluded.

51. Mr MAK Kwok-fung asked whether the PGO on undesirable association was enforceable. He also asked whether many Police officers had reported undesirable association to the Police in the past few years and whether the promotion prospect of an officer involved in undesirable association would be affected.

52. ACP(SQ) pointed out that it was spelt out clearly in PGO that a Police officer should not, other than in the course of his duty, associate with known criminals or triad personalities. If a person was known to a Police officer to be such a personality this would be a matter of fact. However, whether a person was of doubtful character or undesirable reputation was more difficult to define and it was necessary to rely on the officer's judgment taking into consideration all the circumstances. Police officers were provided with relevant training in these areas and the mechanism for declaring or reporting such contact was stipulated in the Headquarters Orders. There were instances where officers engaged themselves in undesirable associations through ignorance or where relationships subsequently turned undesirable for one reason or another. In such cases, if an officer filed a report or sought help from his senior officers, he would receive guidance and assistance. If a Police officer chose to associate with such undesirable elements, the Police would consider whether the officer was suitable for certain postings or whether the promotion prospect of such an officer would be affected. Each case would be determined on its circumstances and merits.

53. Mr MAK Kwok-fung asked about the statistics on the corruption of Police officers in the past few years. He also asked how ICAC triggered off its investigation of a Police officer.

54. AD(O)/ICAC responded that corruption reports against Police decreased by six percent from 565 in 2002 to 532 in 2003. These accounted for about

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12% to 13% of all corruption reports in the corresponding years and were lower than those in the past. He added that the investigation of a Police officer usually arose from a report from a member of the public or referral from the Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch of the Police. The ICAC had also referred cases to the Police for follow-up in appropriate circumstances.

55. Referring to paragraph 10 of the Police's paper, Mr IP Kwok-him asked how background checks were conducted. He also asked why undesirable association in SIN's case was not detected in such background checks.

56. ACP(SQ) responded that known undesirable association that placed an officer's integrity in doubt would affect a Police officer's promotion and posting. Any decision would be based on information available at that time, which involved intelligence from different sources. Where undesirable association was suspected, depending on the nature of the association, criminal or disciplinary investigation would be conducted.

57. Mr IP Kwok-him said that SIN's case involved misconduct in office related to acceptance of free sexual services from prostitutes provided by a person having control over such prostitutes. He asked why the misconduct was not detected under the Police's monitoring mechanism.

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58. The Chairman considered that the Police should explain why misconduct was not detected in the Police background checks in SIN's case. ACP(SQ) responded that the outcome of any investigation or check would depend on the information available at that time. As an appeal had been lodged in SIN's case, he was not in a position to provide information on the background checks in the case. However he agreed to provide a written response in respect of the general principles of the background checks on Police officers.

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59. Mr IP Kwok-him asked whether there had been cases when a Police officer recommended for promotion was finally not promoted for failure to pass a background check. ACP(SQ) replied in the affirmative. He said that where a background check revealed an officer's integrity to be in doubt, appropriate actions would be taken. Mr IP requested the Police to provide information on the number of Police officers not promoted due to failure to pass background checks in the past three years.

60. Referring to paragraph 12 of the Police's paper, Mr LAU Kong-wah asked whether the Police had, where it became aware that a Police officer was involved in corruption, referred the case concerned to ICAC. He also asked whether the Police would in future notify ICAC of cases involving non-monetary advantages or misconduct similar to that in SIN's case. He said that the Police and ICAC had given the public the impression that their relationship was not harmonious in the past. He asked whether both sides had learned any lessons from SIN's case.

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61. ACP(SQ) responded that all reports relating to corruption were referred through the Internal Investigations Office of the Police to ICAC. Where there were doubts about whether a case involved corruption, the ICAC would be consulted. Such a mechanism had been in place for many years. He said that the Police and ICAC had always cooperated well in the past. There were even closer communications between the two sides after SIN's case. On a day-to-day basis Police and ICAC continued to cooperate on numerous operational matters. The Force remained firmly committed to supporting ICAC's work.

62. AD(O)/ICAC said that the Police had referred to ICAC cases where Police officers were involved in corruption. He considered that existing channels of communication between the Police and ICAC were adequate. The ICAC would strive at maintaining closer communication with the Police.

63. The Chairman expressed concern that to his knowledge, there was still association between Police officers and undesirable elements which was not reported. There were probably cases where Police officers had accepted free sexual services from prostitutes provided by undesirable elements. The degree to which the occupation of a senior Police officer's relative would affect his posting was also a question that should be examined. He considered that such matters, which were very complicated and might involve human rights issues, should be examined seriously by the Police.

64. ACP(SQ) noted the concerns of the Chairman. He said that requirements relating to undesirable association had already been laid down in the Headquarters Orders and PGO. Intelligence indicated that such cases existed but were small in number. He stressed that the Police would follow up the matter seriously.

65. The Chairman asked whether the Police would encourage its officers to report undesirable association.

66. ACP(SQ) responded that through education, training and publicity, the Police had encouraged its officers to report such matters or to discuss their problems with their supervisors, and provided support service to officers making the report. The mechanism for monitoring undesirable association was under review by the committee. He reiterated that intelligence available did not indicate that the problem was serious.

67. AD(O)/ICAC said that the subject of undesirable association was being looked at by the Force Anti-corruption Strategy Steering Committee, which comprised directorate officers from the Police and the three departments of the ICAC. Senior officers from the Police Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch and the Operations Department of ICAC also provided input in the

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training of Police officers to enhance their knowledge about the drawbacks of corruption.

V. Establishment of Tseung Kwan O Police District
(LC Paper No. CB(2)955/03-04(05))

68. Mr LAU Kong-wah expressed disappointment that the Police did not have plans to turn the Tseung Kwan O Police Division into a Police District. He said that Tseung Kwan O district, the population of which was increasing, had the lowest police-to-public ratio among the Police Divisions in the Kowloon East Region. He considered that the distribution of Police districts should be consistent with the distribution of administrative districts. He asked whether the Police would reconsider establishing the Tseung Kwan O Police District.

69. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Support) (ACP(S)) responded that the Police had not drawn a conclusion on whether Tseung Kwan O Police Division should be turned into a Police District. It was still conducting a number of studies and reviews, including a long-term review on the reorganisation of the Kowloon East Police Region.

70. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked when the Police would reach a decision on the matter. He also asked about the resource implications of merging the Tseung Kwan O Division and Sai Kung Division into a Police District.

71. ACP(S) responded that as the Government was facing the problem of fiscal deficit, the matter had to be considered seriously having regard to the resource implications. He pointed out that the major difference between a Police Division and a Police District was that a Police Division was headed by a superintendent of Police, while a Police District was headed by a chief superintendent of Police. There was no difference in the number of frontline Police officers deployed, which was based on needs. Where necessary, other Police manpower could be deployed to meet operational needs within the area.

72. Regional Commander, Kowloon East (RC/KE) added that besides the police-to-public ratio, other factors such as crime rate were also considered in determining whether a Police Division should be turned into a Police District. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Administration's paper, he pointed out that the crime rate of Tseung Kwan O Division was lower than those of most other Divisions in the Kowloon East Region.

73. Mr IP Kwok-him asked about the number of Police Districts in the Kowloon East Region.

74. RC/KE responded that the Police Kowloon East Region comprised the following Police Districts -

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- (a) the Kwun Tong District, which comprised the Kwun Tong Division and the Tseung Kwan O Division;
- (b) the Sau Mau Ping District, which comprised the Sau Mau Ping Division and the Ngau Tau Kok Division; and
- (c) the Wong Tai Sin District, which comprised the Wong Tai Sin Division, the Tsz Wan Shan Division and Sai Kung Division.

75. Mr Howard YOUNG said that as the population of Tseung Kwan O district was still increasing, the Police should regularly review the policing needs of the area.

76. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked whether the Police would reach a decision on the matter within the current year.

77. ACP(S) responded that it was difficult to provide a time-table, as the reorganisation of Police Districts involved more than one Police District. Where necessary, other police manpower and resources would be redeployed to meet policing and operational needs in Tseung Kwan O.

78. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:10 pm.