

**For information
6 July 2004**

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**Personal safety problems encountered
by Hong Kong residents in the Mainland**

PURPOSE

This paper sets out the situation in relation to Hong Kong residents encountering personal safety problems in the Mainland, and explains the cooperation arrangements between Hong Kong and Mainland regarding the issue.

CURRENT SITUATION

2. Trips of Hong Kong residents to the Mainland for tourism, business and entertainment purposes have become increasingly frequent. In 2003, there are a total of 58.57 million entries into the Mainland through various boundary control points. The figure is 26.52 million in the first 5 months of 2004.

3. In recent years, the number of cases of request to the Hong Kong Police for assistance by Hong Kong residents due to crimes encountered in the Mainland is as follows -

Year	Number of cases of request for assistance
2003	1,194
2003 (January to May)	566
2004 (January to May)	434

4. In most of the cases, the persons concerned report to the Police after returning to Hong Kong. Summarizing these cases, about 85% of them occurred in Shenzhen City. The main category of crimes involved is fraud. Other categories are false imprisonment, robbery, theft and wounding, etc.

CORRESPONDING MEASURES TAKEN BY THE HONG KONG POLICE

5. If the crimes take place in the Mainland, investigation and law enforcement have to be carried out by the Mainland authorities. To facilitate the public security authorities of the Mainland to effectively and properly follow up reports of such cases, the Hong Kong Police will encourage the persons concerned to report the case to the public security authorities of the Mainland when they receive such reports. This will enable the Mainland authorities to take appropriate measures on investigation and maintenance of law and order in respect of these crimes. The Police will also enquire from the person concerned as much detail as possible concerning the case, and, with the consent or at the request of the persons concerned, forward the information to the public security authorities of the Mainland.

SHENZHEN-HONG KONG LAND BOUNDARY POLICE CO-OPERATION SCHEME

6. In respect of requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents at the boundary (especially in the areas of the land boundary control points) due to crimes and other incidents, the Police of Hong Kong and Shenzhen have strengthened their liaison at the land boundary control points in order to facilitate joint efforts of both sides in combating crimes at the boundary areas, and to facilitate requests for assistance. The Hong Kong Police and the Public Security Bureau of Shenzhen have implemented the "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Land Boundary Police Co-operation Scheme" since 19 January 2003. When reports of crimes or emergency incidents which take place in the boundary areas of Hong Kong and Shenzhen are received, the other side will be informed immediately to facilitate an earlier grasp of the situations, and enable timely actions to be taken to deal with the crimes or incidents.

7. Reporting facilities have been set up at the following places by the Police of both sides:

Hong Kong

Lok Ma Chau Control Point Report Centre
Man Kam To Control Point Report Room
Sha Tau Kok Police Station
Lo Wu Station Report Room

Shenzhen

Huanggang Port Division
Nanhu Police Station
Shatoujiao Police Station
Luohu Transport Building

Since the implementation of the Co-operation Scheme in January 2003 and up to

May 2004, 352 cases of requests for assistance which were within the scope of the Scheme have been dealt with.

PREVENTION OF CRIME

8. Early this year, the Hong Kong Police have produced 6 episodes of anti-crime programme, in cooperation with the public security authorities of the Mainland, for broadcasting at the television programme "Police Report". The episodes aim at promoting the awareness of crime among Hong Kong residents who travel to the Mainland, and include the topics of "Boundary Liaison & Lost of ID Papers", "Seduction & Unlawful Detention", "Vehicle Operating Without Licence", "Highway Robbery & Traffic Accidents", "Beware of Pick Pocket & Snatching by Motorcyclist" and "Introduction to the Uniforms of Public Security Bureau Officer & Security Guard". The Police of both sides hope that through these programmes the awareness of crime would be raised among Hong Kong residents to prevent them from becoming victims of crimes.

VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

9. The Panel has enquired whether victimization surveys have been conducted on cases where Hong Kong residents encounter crimes in the Mainland. Regular victimization surveys have been conducted by the Administration under the auspices of the Fight Crime Committee. The objective is to provide those involved in the administration of criminal justice with information, not otherwise available from official records, on the nature and extent of crime and reasons for reporting or not reporting crime to the Police, with a view to complementing data resources already on hand for the purpose of planning, evaluation and analysis. The surveys cover the crime situation in Hong Kong. Since crimes that take place in the Mainland are outside the jurisdiction of Hong Kong in general, they have not been included in the surveys.

CONCLUSION

10. The Hong Kong Police will continue to monitor the situation closely, and cooperate with the public security authorities of the Mainland to prevent Hong Kong residents from encountering crimes in the Mainland.

Security Bureau
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