

## 3,500 an hour through Kai Tak

An average of 3,090 passengers an hour were handled at Kai Tak during the past financial year, which is 40 per cent above the terminal building's design capacity.

At peaks, the number of passengers exceeded 3,500 per hour.

The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr Roy Downing, states in his annual report that the "excess hourly throughput was not achieved without a drop in the standard of service provided."

And the number of passengers passing through Kai Tak is predicted to grow by nine per cent annually up to 1980. This forecast is based on data received from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), aircraft manufacturers and tourist associations.

However, extension work on the terminal building, to be completed later this year, will enable up to 5,000 passengers

to pass through every hour.

Government economists and experts from different departments are presently studying a report on the future of the Hongkong air transport system which also refers to the possibility of building a second airport.

A CAD spokesman said yesterday it is not known when the recommendations on the proposal to build a second airport will be made public.

Mr Downing also reports that annual air transport movements declined by 4.87 per cent during 1975-76, totalling 50,441.

He attributes this, to a certain extent, to the cessation of services by the airlines of Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, but mainly to the continuing increase in the employment of wide-bodied aircraft, which now account for 30 per cent of air transport movements at Kai Tak.