

## ~~\$8m upgrading for~~ airport fire team

THE Civil Aviation Department has been given the green light to spend more than \$8.5 million to strengthen the Airport Fire Contingent's equipment.

The amount will be used to buy a replacement foam tender which will be deployed at the new Chek Lap Kok airport after the Kai Tak facility is closed by 1997.

At present, the contingent is equipped with three foam tenders, one of which was purchased in 1979 and the remaining two in 1981.

Department officials explained that the service condition of the oldest one had been deteriorating.

In order to satisfy the minimum safety requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisa-

tion, it needs to be replaced in 1991-92," they said.

Their request for additional funds for a replacement foam tender was approved by the Legislative Council's Finance Committee earlier this month.

The Macau government is also considering acquiring similar facilities for its future international airport.

Meanwhile, the Royal Observatory will install a \$10 million storm-detecting radar system for tracking tropical cyclones and monitoring severe weather.

The facility will replace the current seven-year-old digital radar system, which experienced 246 hours of downtime last year.

The new system is expected to be installed in 1992-93.