

6 April 1990

## Agents start HK boycott

By MURIEL LAU

TAIWANESE travel operators today begin an indefinite "three refusals" boycott of Hongkong, sparked by what they say is the territory's discriminatory attitude towards Taiwanese travellers.

The secretary-general of the Taipei Association of Travel Agents, Mr Chen Yao-chih, said the boycott would continue until the Hongkong Government cut visa processing time for Taiwan visitors down to four working days.

Under the "three refusals" plan, travel agents will not assist Taiwanese applying for Hongkong entry per-

mits, will stop organising package tours to the territory, and will boycott Hongkong products.

Mr Chen said they had already posted bills in Taipei to call on Taiwanese people to support the boycott and are appealing to all travel agents to take part in the campaign.

However, it is understood Hongkong products will not be boycotted extensively throughout Taiwan.

The Kaohsiung Association of Travel Agents will today stage a signature collection campaign at the southern Taiwanese city's railway station and international airport.

On Wednesday, Kaohsiung travel agents began cancelling package tour stopovers in Hongkong.

The association has set up a group to study the feasibility of entering China via Manila instead of Hongkong.

The protest follows an incident last month when about 1,200 Taiwanese travellers, stranded at Kai Tak airport because of flight delays, were barred by immigration officials from entering Hongkong, forcing them to spend the night in a transit lounge. Travellers of other nationalities were allowed to leave the airport and spend the night in hotels.