

## \$23.9m scheme to speed up localisation of police

THE police have put forward a \$23.9 million scheme to expand its secondment arrangements with Britain which will help accelerate the localisation program of the police force over the next eight years.

The exchange program aims at equipping local superintendents with the necessary experience for them to qualify for the rank of assistant commissioner and above before 1997, when Hongkong reverts to Chinese rule.

The department currently has 23 posts at and above assistant commissioner level. The police force will have to take over the British Army's present border duties after 1997.

The secondment scheme was scheduled for approval at Legco's Finance Committee meeting after the Budget debate yesterday but the session was cancelled because the debate went on much longer than expected.

The package was instead circulated to Legco members for written approval and is expected to be endorsed next week.

Under the scheme three local superintendents will be seconded to Britain every two years until 1994. The same number of British officers will work in Hongkong.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reports by ANDY HO

A \$3.6 million system of mutual secondments between Hongkong and various British police forces was first introduced four years ago.

In December 1985, the Finance Committee agreed to spend a further \$4.1 million to extend the scheme for another two years until this year. A review of the program was recently concluded and it was recommended that the arrangement be further expanded.

The police have asked for \$23.9 million to fund the fu-

ture secondment program which will be completed by 1996.

A total of \$13.9 million will be spent on the local officers going to Britain, while the remaining \$10 million will go on the British officers coming to Hongkong.

The amount will cover, among other items, the costs of accommodation, air tickets, baggage allowances and overseas education allowance for the officers' children.