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# 2,000 more staff needed for CSD

TWO thousand more staff are needed to cope with the Correctional Services Department's (CSD) Vietnamese boat people duties and an increasing number of local prisoners.

The Director of Correctional Services, Mr Chan Wa-shek, said his department would need a 7,283-strong staff to effectively carry out its duties.

The Government, however, has abolished 1,535 posts from the department's proposed establishment because of the poor prospect of having them filled.

Civil Services Branch officials maintained the CSD should only be given a total establishment of 5,748.

Meanwhile, of the places approved, 419 officer and assistant officer grade posts have remained vacant.

Mr Chan said the CSD planned to increase its spending on recruitment by 18 per cent to \$2.65 million in the next financial year.

The CSD received 556 applications for officer posts and 7,549 for assistant officer posts last year. But only 145 officers and 1,026 assistant officers were accepted.

Yesterday was the last day of the Legislative Council Finance Committee's three-day debate on the 1990-91 Budget. Reports by SHIRLEY YAM and DAPHNE CHENG.

The intake was compromised by a wastage of 74 officers and 767 assistant officers during the same period.

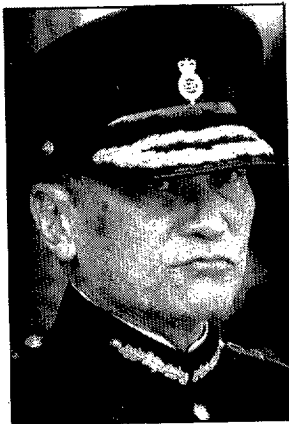
Mr Chan said the manpower shortage had resulted in a \$25.4 million allowance last year for officers performing extra duties.

He said he hoped the manpower constraint could be relaxed this year as the Tuen Mun and San Yick camps might be closed, following the opening of the Philippines transition centre for the Vietnamese.

Last year an extra \$42.3 million was spent on 440 new and redeployed staff to manage the detention centres.

Crowded conditions in penal institutions and the large number of Vietnamese had caused the number of complaints lodged against CSD staff to more than double.

The average daily penal population had increased by 21.6 per cent from 9,230 in



Chan Wa-shek

1988 to 11,227 last year. Occupancy rate of the facilities has reached 127 per cent.

Mr Chan attributed the substantial rise to the 29 per cent increase in the number of Chinese illegal immigrants sentenced to prison since May 1988.

"This overcrowding has resulted in more conflicts and confrontations between

prisoners, necessitating staff intervention and a subsequent increase in complaints," he said.

He said the increase in conflict did not correspond proportionally to the rise in overcrowding, but by several fold.

The number of complaints increased from 58 in 1988 to 112 last year, of which 49 cases involved alleged use of unnecessary force and 20 allegations of threats.

Mr Chan said six to seven per cent of these complaints were substantiated while the 1988 figure was five per cent.

"The only thing the department could do to reduce complaints was to counsel both the staff and offenders in their manners," he said.

"In this overcrowded environment, where facilities and resources are so stretched, and where discipline must be maintained, complaints are certain to arise."

But Mr Chan stressed that the number of complaints accounting for only one per cent of the total penal population was small.