

# 50pc unhappy with RTHK terms

By FIONA CHAN

MORE than half of the 1,000 workers at Radio Television Hongkong (RTHK) consider a new remuneration package for the future independent radio station unsatisfactory, according to Mr Cliff Bale, secretary of the Programming Staff Union.

Details of the recommendations, which were supposed to remain confidential until the Executive Council had dealt with the package, were released this week in a letter of complaint to the Secretary for Recrea-

tion and Culture, Mr James So Yiu-cho. All staff may have to decide between taking a cut in pay and fringe benefits or losing their jobs.

Mr Bale said a number of staff who were unhappy about the package would not re-apply after they were sacked.

Under the plan, the organisation's staff will be "pensioned off" with compensation and the old station will be abolished.

Those wishing to work for the new station will have to compete with other job-seekers.

Mr Bale said the package was poor for all staff, but especially expatriates and the low-paid.

"If some wish to take the money and leave, they will not worry about the new terms," he said.

Mr Bale said the recommendations were those of the consultants, McKinsey, and he expected the Government to make some improvements.

Asked if the union would discuss the new terms, Mr Bale said that, at the moment, they did not know

what the Government would offer.

There was little comment yesterday from senior officials at the station.

Head of Radio Three, English programme service, Nick Bailey, said: "I am not part of the union. I have no idea when I will know the exact package."

Assistant director of radio division, Mr Simon Lun Siu-ming, said he could not give any comment.

The veteran broadcaster, Ralph Pixton, said he could not comment because he was on contract and not a member of staff.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST  
28 SEP 1991

*Handwritten notes:*  
Bale  
Munty...